



CATALYST

Dilkes Academy

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Rising 3's Nursery

We are excited to share that we are looking to offer a **Rising 3's Nursery** – a gentle and supportive way for children to begin their school journey.

What is a Rising 3 Nursery?

Our Rising 3's Nursery welcomes children into the school community shortly before their third birthday. It provides a carefully planned, age-appropriate environment that bridges the gap between home or early years settings and school life.

For many children, moving into a more structured school environment can feel overwhelming. Through the Rising 3's programme, school routines and expectations are introduced gradually, helping children build confidence, familiarity, and a strong sense of belonging before progressing further in school.

When can my child start?

- If your child turns 3 between 1st September and 31st December
→ They can start in September 2026
- If your child turns 3 between 1st January and 31st March
→ They can start in January 2027
- If your child turns 3 between 1st April and 31st August
→ They can start in April 2027

How to apply for a Rising 3 funding code?

To access funded early learning, you will need to apply.

You may be asked for:

- Your child's details
- Proof of benefits or eligibility (if required)

Use the QR code to begin your Thurrock 15 hours Early Learning for 2-Year-Olds funding application.

Two-year entitlement Funding – 15.00 hours

[Free education and childcare for 2-year-olds if you claim certain benefits | Help with childcare costs | Thurrock Council](#)





Once your application has been processed, you will be informed if you are eligible. If successful, you will receive a confirmation letter from Thurrock's Early Years Funding Team – this letter is your proof of eligibility and must be given to your chosen childcare provider.

Can I receive both types of funding>

Yes – you may be eligible for both if you meet the criteria:

- 15 hours Early Learning for 2-Year-Olds, and
- 15 hours Free Childcare for Working Parents of 2-Year-Olds

Working Family – 30.00 hours

30 hours childcare - Best Start in Life



If you are unsure whether you qualify, or need support with your application, please contact:
two@thurrock.gov.uk

If you would like to register your child for our Nursery, please click on the link below.

Nursery Form – Fill out form

Yours sincerely,

Dilkes Academy

