

Monday marked the start of the 2019-2020 academic calendar at the Consell de Formentera's two early-childhood learning centres, or *escoletes*: Sa Miranda and Camí Vell. Of 128 spots initially available for one- to two-year-olds and two- to three-year-olds, 19 remain. The infant group is full, and there are currently no names on the wait list.

Fifteen educators and two classroom aides will look after children's well being during what education councillor Susana Labrador described as “a crucial growth period”. Labrador said that one of the chief priorities of escoletes is to “help islanders juggle work and family”, and laid stress on the fact that younger students would be “passting a good part of their first years with individuals who care for their needs”.

At this moment in time, Camí Vell has one space in the one- to two-year-old group and five spaces among the two- and three-year-olds. At Sa Miranda, the infant and one- to two-year-old groups are already full, and the two- to three-year-old classrooms have 13 empty spots.

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