

Childcare Funding Options

(Effective from 1 September 2025)

There have been significant changes to Government childcare funding. Below is an overview of the funding options available and how they apply to your child.

30 Hours Government-Funded Childcare

(For Working Parents)

Children may be eligible for up to 30 hours of funded childcare per week from the term after they turn 9 months old, provided this falls before the relevant term start date:

- Autumn Term: Child turns 9 months by 31 August
- Spring Term: Child turns 9 months by 31 December
- Summer Term: Child turns 9 months by 31 March

Eligibility & Codes

- Parents must meet the Government eligibility criteria
- Eligible parents will receive an 11-digit eligibility code
- This code must be provided to the nursery so funding can be validated
- Codes must be renewed every 3 months

⚠️ If a code expires, funded hours cannot be claimed, and full fees will be charged for that term.

👉 Parents can apply and check eligibility at:

<https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/>

15 Hours Funding for Eligible 2-Year-Olds

Some families may qualify for 15 hours of funded childcare per week if they receive certain Government benefits.

- Available from the term after the child turns 2
 - Eligibility is assessed by the Government
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Universal 15 Hours Funding

(3- and 4-Year-Olds)

All children are entitled to 15 hours of Universal Funding from the term after they turn 3 years old, regardless of:

- Parental income
- Employment status

No application is required. The Nursery will make the claim on your behalf and Parents will sign a separate funding form.

How Funding Is Applied

Due to high demand, all funded places are stretched across 51 weeks of the year, unless parents choose a term-time only option.

Stretched Funding (51 Weeks)

Funding is spread evenly across the year, reducing weekly funded hours while providing more consistent monthly costs.

- **15 hours Universal Funding: 11.18 hours per week**
 - **30 hours Extended Funding: 22.35 hours per week**
 - **Helps avoid periods where full fees are payable**
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Term-Time Only Funding (38 Weeks)

Funding is taken during the academic year only.

- **No funding during school holidays**
 - **Children do not attend unless parents purchase additional ad hoc sessions**
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Meals

Government funding covers childcare only and does not include meals.

We offer freshly cooked meals at a cost of £14 per day, which includes:

- **Breakfast**
- **Mid-morning snack**
- **Two-course lunch**
- **Afternoon snack**
- **Tea**