

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**

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**

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**

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**