



Childcare Funding

Frequently Asked Questions

Funding for childcare can be complicated. We've pulled together these frequently asked questions to make this simpler for you. If you can't find your question here, then please pop into and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

- **What types of government funding are offered at Little Nest Nursery?**

We accept: Working Families Funding
 Disadvantaged Funding for 2 Year Olds
 Universal Funding for 3 & 4 Year Olds

Working Families Funding

- **What is Working Families Funding?**

Working Families Funding is a means tested funding for working parents of children aged 9 months to 4 years old. This funding gives eligible children 1,140 hours of funded childcare per year. In all of our nurseries we stretch these hours over 52 weeks of the year, giving each child 22 hours of funded childcare per week. If your child attends one of our nurseries that also offers term time only places, we can also offer this as 30hrs per week for 38 weeks of the year. You can check your eligibility and apply for 30 hours funding at the Childcare Choices website <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>

- **Who is eligible?**

Families where both parents work and earn at least the equivalent of 16 hours at minimum wage per week, but less than £100,000 each per year, or where the sole parent works in a single parent family and meets the same requirements. Children are eligible to receive the funding from the term after they reach 9 months old.

- **How do I get my eligibility code?**

Visit the Childcare Choices website <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>

At the end of the application process, you will have a childcare service account. In the "secure messages" section of your account, you will receive messages regarding your

eligibility. If you are eligible for 30 hours, you will be given an 11 digit 'eligibility code' for your child.

- **What are the term dates for eligibility?**

Date of child reaching 9 months old:	Funding begins on:
On or before 30 th June in previous year	1 st April
On or before 30 th Nov in previous year	1 st September
On or before 31 st March in previous year	1 st January

How can I claim funding at my nursery?

If you are entitled to working families funded childcare hours, you must let us know prior to the term that this applies. We will then provide you with a funding declaration form before the start of the term. This is a digital form sent to you via email from Funding Loop. This form will need to be completed and submitted to us as soon as possible. We will then send this on to the Local Authority to apply for the funded childcare.

- **When do I need to bring my eligibility information into nursery?**

You must have applied for your eligibility code before the start of the term, if you miss the start of the term, you cannot claim 30 hours funding until the start of the following term. Please bring your eligibility code into nursery as soon as you get it so we can get your sessions booked in.

- **How often do I have to prove my eligibility?**

You will need to reconfirm your code every 3 months. You will receive reminders to do this via the government portal, please make sure you log into your account and action this when prompted. It is the parents responsibility to keep their code up to date.

- **What do I do if I forget to apply for my eligibility code?**

Apply for it as soon as possible. Unfortunately, if you have missed the start of the term then you will not be able to get your 30 hours funding until the start of the following term.

- **How will my 30hr funding be deducted from my nursery fees?**

Children attending all year round (51 weeks)

If your child attends 2 days, you will receive 10hrs per day, equating to 20hrs of funding. (This is a maximum of funding per day set by the government). If your child attends for 3 or more days, your child will receive the full 22hrs of funding – this will be spread evenly across the booking. There will also be a small charge for meals and consumables each day of attendance.

Maximum hours of funding per day	Number of days attending				
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
	10hrs	10hrs			
	7hrs 20mins	7hrs 20mins	7hrs 20mins		
	5hrs 30mins	5hrs 30mins	5hrs 30mins	5hrs 30mins	
	4hrs 24mins	4hrs 24mins	4hrs 24mins	4hrs 24mins	4hrs 24mins

Children attending term time only (38 weeks)

If your child attends 2 days you will receive 10hrs per day, equating to 20hrs of funding. (This is a maximum of funding per day set by the government). If your child attends for 3 or more days, your child will receive the full 30hrs of funding – this will be spread evenly across the booking. There will also be a small charge for meals and consumables each day of attendance.

Maximum hours of funding per day	Number of days attending				
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
	10hrs	10hrs			
	10hrs	10hrs	10hrs		
	7hrs 30mins	7hrs 30mins	7hrs 30mins	7hrs 30mins	
	6hrs	6hrs	6hrs	6hrs	6hrs

There is no requirement for a child to access additional hours on top of the free hours. However, we only have a limited number of fully funded places available.

- **What if I want to change my booking pattern?**
Booking patterns should only be changed at the beginning of the new term otherwise this can affect your funding.
- **Can I book additional sessions?**
Yes, if you need extra days then you can request to book these, these will be charged at the full session price and are subject to availability.
- **Can I take some of my hours with your nursery and some with another nursery or child-minder?**
Yes, you can share your 30 hours funding with up to 3 providers. Please speak to your nursery manager for further information.

Disadvantaged Funding for 2 Year Olds

- **What is Disadvantaged Funding for 2 Year Olds ?**
Disadvantaged funding for 2 year olds is a means tested funding which some families are entitled to. This funding gives eligible children 570 hours of funded childcare per year. In all of our nurseries we stretch these hours over 52 weeks of the year, giving each child 11 hours of funded childcare per week. If your child attends one of our nurseries that also offers term time only places, we can also offer this as 15hrs per week for 38 weeks of the year. If you are eligible you will receive a code that you must provide to us. To find out if you're entitled to apply for 2-year-old you can view the criteria and apply on the government website here: <https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-2-year-olds>

Universal Funding for 3 & 4 Year Olds

- **What is universal funding for 3 & 4 Year Olds?**

Universal funding is for all children aged 3 & 4 years old, regardless of their parents income or employment status. If you are not eligible for working families funding for your 3 or 4 year old. Your child will receive 570 hours of funded childcare per year from the term after their third birthday. In all of our nurseries we stretch these hours over 52 weeks of the year, giving each child 11 hours of funded childcare per week. If your child attends one of our nurseries that also offers term time only places, we can also offer this as 15hrs per week for 38 weeks of the year. Universal Funding does not need to be applied for online and does not require a code for us to claim it for your child. However, you will still be required to fill in the digital declaration form.