



Parents Funding Guide January 2024

This guide has been created to help you navigate the proposed changes to the Government funding and provide you with information about what funding you may be entitled to. We will also outline how Little Oaks delivers the funding to ensure families receive access to flexible and reliable childcare.

When is the funding available?

From April 2024 eligible children aged 2 receive 15 hours funded childcare

From September 2024, eligible children aged 9 months are also eligible for 15 hours funded childcare

By September 2025 all children aged 9 months to school age are eligible for 30 hours funded childcare.

How do I find out if I am eligible?

Eligibility criteria can be found on the Childcare Choices websites

www.chilcarechoices.gov.uk

How do I apply?

You can apply for funding using the childcare choices website. You will need to provide us with a copy of the code you are issued.

You will need to renew your code every 3 months. Make sure you set up reminders to renew before your code expires!

What does the funding cover?

Government funding is provided to cover your child's place at nursery and does not cover additional costs or extras. The extra essentials are the things that make our nursery run smoothly and enhance your child's development and learning opportunities. These include:

- Resources and equipment
- Staff training
- Parent zone and Parent mail apps
- Administration costs
- Toiletries and cleaning products
- Food and drinks

As a not for profit charity, we reinvest any profit we make back into the nursery. We ensure all children attending the nursery have access to all the little extras that make nursery special and try our best to keep costs as low as we can. We do ask for an additional daily charge to cover the costs not covered by the funding. And this will be included in the monthly childcare cost.

When is my child eligible for the Funding?

Children become eligible for funding from the term after their birthday (or the term after they turn 9 months old) terms are classed as:

- Autumn term—1st Sept to 31st December
- Spring term—1st January to 31st March
- Summer term—1st April to 31st August

How do we deliver the funded hours?

Our aim is to provide flexible childcare which meets the needs of our families and also ensures the future sustainability of Little Oaks Nursery. In order to do this we have a clear funding structure which can be found below.

As we do not provide childcare by the hour, funded hours will cover a proportion of a full day session. Therefore non funded hours are used to cover the remaining hours of each session. These are charged at the standard rate and itemised on your invoice.

In our experience, working families often need more than the funded hours and so we have adapted our sessions to ensure parents have the most flexible options. This includes stretching the funding over 51 weeks rather than 38 weeks per year. This helps to spread the cost of childcare over the year making it more affordable for parents. The formula below is for children starting in September. This will change slightly for children starting in January or April.

| 2 Year Old Funding | | Funding breakdown— | | |
|--|-----------------|---|---------------------|-------------------|
| Working parents eligible for 15 hours | | 570 hours per year divided by 51 weeks per year = 11.17 hours per week | | |
| Provided over a minimum of 2 days, 51 weeks per year. | | 11.17 hours divided by 2 days per week = 5.585 hours of funding per day. | | |
| Session type | Hours | Total number of hours per session | Funded hours | Paid hours |
| Extended day | 7.30 am—6.00 pm | 10.5 | 5.58 | 4.92 |
| Standard day | 8.00 am—5.00 pm | 9 | 5.58 | 3.415 |

| 3 & 4 Year Old Funding | | Funding breakdown— | | |
|--|-----------------|--|---------------------|-------------------|
| Working parents eligible for 30 hours | | 1140 hours per year divided by 51 weeks per year = 22.36 hours per week | | |
| Provided over a minimum of 3 days, 51 weeks | | 22.36 hours divided by 3 days per week = 7.45 hours of funding per day. | | |
| Session type | Hours | Total number of hours per session | Funded hours | Paid hours |
| Extended day | 7.30 am—6.00 pm | 10.5 | 7.45 | 3.05 |
| Standard day | 8.00 am—5.00 pm | 9 | 7.45 | 1.55 |

For childcare prices, please refer to our **Session Times and Prices Information sheet**. Please be aware that prices are subject to a price increase every April and the current price sheet may not yet reflect any future prices increase.