



Funding Explained

There are a couple of different funding schemes that parents can access to support them being able to return to work, knowing their child is nurtured, safe and educated.

Working family funded childcare.

This scheme is the one most families use but does have criteria for qualifying for it. This gives you up to 30 funded hours, term time only (38 weeks). We stretch these hours across the year which will give you a more consistent invoice each month

To see if you qualify for this scheme, you can look at the government site 'Best start in life'. This explains in depth the different eligibility criteria and is very user friendly and takes you through the process of applying step-by-step.

Please note the following:

- We can only apply up to 10hrs per day for the 38 weeks
- Your child isn't eligible until **the term after** they are 9 months at the earliest
- You must have applied for your eligibility code prior to the term starting
- We do have a limited number of free places that are term time only (see separate note below)
- The educational funded hours are offered free of charge however this does not always include food or enhanced consumables (please see our food and enhanced consumables information sheet)

When do I need to have applied for my eligibility code?

- You must have the code to start in the Autumn term (Sept to Dec) by the 31st August
- You must have the code to start in the Spring term (Jan to Mar) by the 31st December
- You must have the code to start in the summer term (Apr to Jul) by the 31st March

NB. We advise you to apply at least a month prior to the date applicable to your start date

How do we calculate the stretched fees?

For example if you are eligible for 30hrs for 38 weeks

- You can have a maximum of 1,140 hours in a year and so divide this by 12 months.
- This gives you a total of 95 hrs per month.
- Each week you can have 2 completely free days of basic educational hours and a third day that has some funded hours (free) and the rest of the hours are charged at the private rate.
- On the days that aren't covered by the grant we will apply our usual private rate.
- We calculate your weekly private fees and then annualise it for you.

NB You are under no obligation to purchase additional private days and your preference this will not effect when you are offered a place in the nursery.

The tables attached will give you help to understand this. The tables have the food and enhanced care package included. If you wish to **opt out** then just remove the annualised amount stated on the table in the last row.

The grant rate given to us for the under two's and two year olds is higher and we are able to include the consumables and food costs. This will be reviewed as rates change and if altered, we will give you a minimum of 6 weeks' notice.

The grant for the three to five year olds unfortunately doesn't cover all the food and enhanced consumables costs so we have set out separate packages that you can choose to opt into. Please see our document for more details.

NB. Depending on when your child becomes eligible for grant may mean your grant runs out in the July prior to your child starting school. We do always ensure your grant has all been allocated prior to you leaving.

What you need to do

After applying for your grant from Best Start in Life, as explained above, you will be issued with a code that starts with a 5. This is the code that must be added to the Parent Declaration in order for us to be able to access the grant on your behalf.

For us to be able to claim the grant we will require you to complete a Parent Declaration prior to starting and then as requested by us. With your initial Parent Declaration please bring in identification for your child so we can take a copy to keep on file (passport or birth certificate).

It is your responsibility to reconfirm your continued eligibility every three months through Best Start in Life to maintain your funding.

I would like to access a completely free place

These places aren't free, but they are fully funded. We can apply for funding for only 38 weeks per year (term time only). We use the published West Berkshire term dates.

If you don't wish to stretch your funding and would like to access a term time only place without taking any private hours, we do have these available. You can opt in to our enhanced care and food packages at the same cost (£1.50p for enhanced consumables and £7.00 for food per day). These enhanced packages are completely optional and are booked termly and paid for monthly in advance. If you wish to supply your own packed lunch for your child we have a packed lunch policy which must be strictly adhered to.

These completely funded sessions are from 9am to 4.30pm per day. We have a separate waiting list for these allocated places, and you can talk to the manager for more details regarding their availability.

NB. The Optional enhanced packages are included for our children accessing supported 2 year old funding.

Other types of Support

Universal Funding

This is often confused with the Working Families Funding.

This is for Families who don't meet the criteria for the 30 hrs Working Families Funding above and is available for all children the term after their 3rd birthday.

Again, this funding is for term time only (38 weeks) but we stretch it across the year so gives 47.5 hours per month. Each week the first day you attend is fully funded and the second day you attend is partially funded. You do not need to apply for a code but will need to complete a parent declaration for the nursery to be able to claim it on your behalf. All though we do have some completely free term time only spaces we do offer these as stretched hours too as explained above.

Tax Free Childcare

This is another Government initiative to help working parents with childcare costs. To take advantage of this scheme you must first check your eligibility via the link below and then if this is right for you then you can sign up.

The government contribute 20% of your childcare costs up to a maximum of £10,000. This will give you up to £2000 in support per child, per year.

Are you eligible?

To ensure you have the most accurate information please look at the following link. There are criteria to meet on income, immigration status etc but still can be eligible if you not currently working, again with certain criteria.

NB please look at this carefully to make sure that you fully understand it. You will immediately and permanently lose certain other support if you apply for this so needs to be fully understood prior to applying.

[Tax-Free Childcare - GOV.UK](#)