

Nuffy Bear Funding Policy

Early Years Funding is a nationwide initiative managed by local authorities. It provides families with a set number of funded childcare hours with an Ofsted-registered provider. The number of hours available depends on a child's age and the family's circumstances (for example, working parent status or household income).

In England, eligible children have access to 30 hours per week in term time or 1140 hours per year for three and four-year-olds of working parents.

- From April 2024, working parents of two-year-olds were able to access 15 hours of funded childcare
- From September 2024, 15 hours of funded childcare were extended to all children from the age of nine months.
- From September 2025, working parents of children under the age of five will be entitled to 30 hours funded childcare per week.

Eligibility Explained

Working Parents Eligibility	For parents of 2-year-olds receiving some additional forms of government support	Universal Entitlement for 3 year and 4-year-olds
From the term after a child turns 9 months until they start school	From the term after a child turns 2 years old	From the term after the child turns 3 years old through to starting school
15 hours per week over 38 weeks of the year. Can be combined with the universal entitlement for 3- and 4-year-olds to make up 30 hours.	Parents to discuss with local authority about free childcare places for eligible two-year-olds.	15 hours per week over 38 weeks of the year. Can be combined with the working parent's entitlement to make up 30 hours.
Check Eligibility: Free Childcare for Working Parents: Check if you're eligible - GOV.UK	Check Eligibility: Help paying for childcare: Find out what 'approved childcare' is - GOV.UK	Check Eligibility: All 3- and 4-year-olds are eligible.

Birthday Period	Funding Starts
1 st January- 31 st March	1 st April
1 st April- 31 st August	1 st September
1 st September- 31 st December	1 st January

At Nuffy Bear Nurseries, funding is available to all children who are eligible on a term time base (38 weeks). The term time dates are set in line with local authority dates.

As the funding is offered term time, the child will receive their full entitlement of funded hours per week across 38 weeks.

Self-Paying Nursery Fee's are payable 13 weeks of the year, where no funding is applicable.

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Delivery of funding hours

Funded hours must comply with national and Local Authority guidance.

- ✓ funded hours may be delivered between 08.00-18.00
- ✓ no funded session exceeds 10 hours per day
- ✓ nursery operating hours are 08.00-18.00
- ✓ parents are not required to access their full entitlement
- ✓ funding may be split between a maximum of two providers per day
- ✓ funding cannot be used for ad-hoc sessions outside contracted hours

Permanent booking changes follow the nursery's contractual notice periods.

Funding and Fee's (What is included)

Government funded childcare supports the delivery of early education and care but does not cover additional services.

At Nuffy Bear Nurseries, we believe in complete transparency, so parents clearly understand how funding and nursery fees are applied.

All invoices provide a clear breakdown of:

- ✓ Private paid hours charged at the nursery's advertised daily or hourly rates
- ✓ Funded hours shown at £0 cost
- ✓ Optional meals and snacks provided during funded sessions
- ✓ Materials and Consumables addition to the statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) such as extra curriculum activities.

Parent Declaration and Documentation

Parents must complete a Local Authority Parent Declaration Form each term confirming:

- ✓ Funded hours accessed
- ✓ Total hours booked
- ✓ Whether funding is shared with another provider
- ✓ Agreement to voluntary charges where applicable

Parents may be required to provide:

- ✓ The child's birth certificate or passport
- ✓ HMRC eligibility code (where applicable)
- ✓ Parent details including name, date of birth and National Insurance number
- ✓ Local Authority confirmation for 2-year funding where applicable.

Funding cannot be claimed without completed documentation.

**Terms and Conditions are applied, please discuss with a member of the Nursery Management Team for more information. Prices are reviewed annually and subject to change. Government Funding Sessions are subject to availability. Due to high demand the nursery operates an Allocation Policy stipulated by the Local Authority, for more information please contact the Nursery Manager. We will not tolerate any words or behaviour that we, in our sole discretion, regard as discriminatory or physical or verbal abuse or aggression towards any child, parent/carer or*

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Nursery Staff. Materials and consumables are charged for on funded days, however these can be voluntary. Should you wish to opt out of this, you will need to provide all meals which include breakfast, snacks, lunch, pudding and tea. All meals must be in line with our packed meals guidance. You will also be required to provide suncream should you opt out. Parents are unable to change this from week to week and will have to provide 1 months' notice in writing to the Nursery Manager to be effective the month after. More information can be found on SOP 6 Health Appendix 8 (Packed Meals Guidance).

Full Terms and Conditions can be found on the Nursery Agreement.

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