

Early Years Funding Explained

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EARLY YEARS FUNDING STREAMS

Early Years Funding (FEEE) is a government programme. It offers early years children 15 or 30 hours of early education per week, depending on their date of birth and family eligibility. This is a total of 570 or 1140 hours per year over 38 weeks (term-time)

As of April 2024, the following early years funding streams are available:

- ✓ All parents of 3 & 4-year-olds can access the universal entitlement of 15 hours of early education per week, during school term times only.
- ✓ Eligible working parents of 3 & 4-year-olds are entitled to 30 hours of early education per week, during school term times only
- ✓ Eligible working parents of 2-year-olds are entitled to 15 hours of early education per week, during school term times only
- ✓ Parents of 2-year-olds who are receiving some additional forms of government support may be eligible for 15 hours of early education per week, during school term times only.

From September 2024:

- ✓ In addition to the above-mentioned entitlements, eligible working parents of children from the age of 9 months will be entitled to 15 hours of early education per week, during school term time only.

From September 2025:

- ✓ Eligible working parents of children from the age of 9 months up to school age will be entitled to 30 hours of early education per week, during school term time only.

All parents of 3 & 4-year-olds can access the universal entitlement of 15 hours of early education per week, during school term times only

Parents of 2-year-olds who are receiving some additional forms of government support may be eligible for 15 hours of early education a week, during school term times only.



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

All parents of 3 & 4 year olds are eligible for the universal, 15-hour entitlement.

Working Parent(s):

- each parent earns, on average, a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at the national living or minimum wage
- each parent must have an annual income less than £100,000
- you may be on maternity or parental leave

Parents Receiving Additional Forms of Support:

You are entitled to claim 15 hours funded childcare for your 2-year-old if you live in England and receive one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit, and your household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, not including benefit payments
- Tax credits, and your household income is £16,190 a year or less before tax
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- The Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

If you are not receiving a qualifying benefit, 2-year-olds can also get funded childcare if they:

- are looked after by a local authority
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- get Disability Living Allowance
- have left care under an adoption order, special guardianship order or a child arrangements order.
- To check your eligibility status for any of the above entitlements, visit: [Childcare & Early Years Education - Best Start in Life](#). Please note that we cannot check your eligibility for you



WHEN TO APPLY:

Birthday falls between

1st September to 31st December

1st January to 31st March

1st April to 31st August

Term funding starts

Spring Term ~ 1st January

Summer Term ~ 1st April

Autumn Term ~ 1st September

Recommended Time to Apply

15 October - 30 November

15 January - 28 February

15 June - 31 July

**** TO KEEP YOUR 15 OR 30 HOUR CHILDCARE PLACE, YOU MUST RECONFIRM YOUR ELIGIBILITY WITH HMRC EVERY 3 MONTHS ****



How to claim your funding entitlement:

Once you are in receipt of your funding code, you will need to send this, along with your National Insurance number and your child's date of birth to Rachel Bird (Business Manager) via Email or EY-Log message. Approximately a month before your funding begins there is one final step required to claim your entitlement from the Local Authority. A Parental Statement of Undertaking (PSOU) must be completed for all eligible children. The PSOU grants us your permission to claim your funding from the Local Authority. We collect this information electronically using an online system called "Funding Loop".

Please ensure that you tick the EYPP box on the form (section 6) so that the nursery can check to see if your child is eligible for additional funding to enhance their early years education.

Your completed form will then be checked and verified by the nursery. If you change your sessions or move address, you will need to complete a new PSOU. The Local Authority will not release your funding without a completed PSOU and a copy of your child's ID (as stated above), so it is vital that you complete the form as soon as you receive it. The Local Authority undertake regular audit checks, and if the nursery does not have an up-to-date PSOU and child's ID on record, the funding will be reclaimed and you, the parent, are then liable to pay the full amount to the nursery.

The Local Authority may also check to see if all funded hours claimed are regularly attended by the child, e.g. if your child has taken a full day session, i.e. 07:30-17:30, then we would have claimed 10 hours. Should you regularly drop off late or collect early, then the LA could potentially claw back the cost of the hours claimed and not attended. This will be at the parent's cost and you will be liable to pay the monetary value of these unused hours back to the LA. You sign to confirm your understanding when completing a PSOU form. This does not apply to one-off absences (for appointments etc) or absences due to sickness and holidays.

If you have any further questions on the above, please do not hesitate to contact Rachel: info@evergreenlodenursery.co.uk, via the EY-Parent app or on 01530 272177



FUNDING ALLOCATION - Stretched Funding

The Government provide early years funding for 38 weeks per year in line with school term dates. As a nursery that operates all year, with the exception of the limited number of term time only places we have available, we will 'stretch' your funding to cover school holidays. This ensures that your nursery invoice is consistent each month, helping to balance monthly outgoings. The amount of funding that you will be allocated is dependent on which term your child becomes eligible.

TERM FUNDING STARTS	30-HOUR STRETCHED	15-HOUR STRETCHED
AUTUMN TERM	22.34 HOURS	11.17 HOURS
SPRING TERM	19.71 HOURS	9.85 HOURS
SUMMER TERM	16.36 HOURS	8.18 HOURS

A maximum of 10 funded hours may be claimed in one day. Irregular or poor attendance may result in funding being withdrawn by the Local Authority in which case fees are repayable in full.



ADDITIONAL SERVICES / ENHANCED PROVISIONS CHARGE

Government Funding is intended to cover the cost of delivery for 15 or 30 hours per week (term time) of childcare. It is not intended to cover the cost of meals, snacks, other consumables, additional hours, additional activities, trips or enhancements. The funding rates that we receive are not sufficient for us to deliver the high level of quality that we pride ourselves on. At Evergreen Lodge Nursery & Preschool we exceed the standards required by law providing high levels of care, education, experiences and cleanliness. We are not willing to compromise on these standards. Please take a minute to watch this [recording](#), which clearly explains our position.

Our high levels of quality include, but are not limited to:

- ♥ Highly qualified staff team including those with Masters Degrees, Early Years Teachers, Bachelor of Arts Degrees, Foundation Degrees, Forest School, SENDco, Level 3 Early Years Educators and more.
 - ♥ Enhanced DBS and Qualification checks, with all staff being signed up to the Live DBS Check Update Service
 - ♥ All staff are qualified in Paediatric First Aid (Level 3), Food Hygiene, level 2, Allergen Awareness & Safeguarding
 - ♥ Enhanced and on-going training opportunities are always available and encouraged.
 - ♥ Nutritious, home cooked meals provided daily. 5 Star Food Hygiene Rated
- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| ♥ Forest School site and staff | ♥ Outsourced activities | ♥ Village Outings | ♥ Parent partnership events |
| ♥ Recognising Celebrations | ♥ School Transition Visits | ♥ EY-Log App | ♥ Enhanced Cleaning |
| ♥ Allotment | ♥ Bus of Imagination | ♥ Academies | |

The Government do not currently recognise the variation in costs of running different types of early years provision. For example, it costs less to run a nursery based on the minimum legal requirements or a 'pack away' preschool with low overheads. Despite this, all settings receive the same funding rates. By law, we are not permitted to charge for quality; however, we may charge for 'consumable items' such as meals, snacks and 'additional services' such as those described above. To maintain the quality of our early years provision (incl. all meals, consumables & extras) we will make an enhanced provisions charge, which is voluntary. Please refer to our **"Your Funded Hours"** document provided for information on how we deliver funded hours and how you Opt In or Opt Out to our Enhanced Provision Charge.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Additional Sources of Funding Available

♥ Tax-Free Childcare

Tax-Free Childcare can be used alongside the 15 or 30 hour funding entitlement. For every £8 you pay into your tax-free childcare account, the Government will add a further £2 up to a value of £2000 per year. To apply visit <https://www.gov.uk/applyfor-tax-free-childcare>

♥ Early Years Pupil Premium

The nursery may be able to claim up to £353 per year to help with your child's education if you are currently in receipt of additional Government support or your child is 'looked after' by the Local Authority

♥ Disability Access Fund

For 3 & 4 year olds who receive disability living allowance (DLA) the nursery is eligible to receive disability access funding. Speak with our SEND inclusion specialist to discuss this further.

For more information on Early Years Funding, Tax-Free Childcare and more, please visit:

[Childcare & Early Years Education - Best Start in Life.](#)