



## Parents Funding Guide April 2025

This guide has been created to help you navigate 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 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.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.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!

### 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

### What is included the Government funding?

The Government provides funding to cover up either 570 or 1140 hours of childcare per year. This is broken down to 15 or 30 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year but can be stretched throughout the year. The funding covers some of the costs of running a nursery but not all. We have provided a break down of what the funding covers overleaf.

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 to ensure we remain sustainable. If you choose not to pay the consumables charge please contact the office and we can provide you with a list of items that you will need to bring to nursery each day.

## The Government funding is provided to cover the following:

### Our team

**Key Person:** Each child has a dedicated key person with ratios based on age.

**Key person cover:** Each member of staff has breaks, annual leave and planning time and cover is needed to ensure ratios are maintained.

**A management team** to meet statutory requirements, including room leadership, health and safety, staff supervision, safeguarding, support for children with Special educational needs, financial administration, and admin support.

**Our cook** Employed to prepare high-quality snacks and meals throughout the day.

**Our cleaner** to ensure the nursery is cleaned every evening.

**Staff training** to ensure our team are up to date with current practice.

### Our Provision

**Resources:** Daily access to a variety of resources, including: Sand, water, arts and crafts, messy play, musical instruments, books, outdoor toys, furniture, and soft furnishings, dressing up clothes, puzzles, games, bikes to name a few.

**General running costs** such as energy, business rates, cleaning supplies, waste disposal, insurance, etc.

**Subscriptions to services** such as connect childcare, training systems and nursery management systems.

**Building maintenance** and updates to the nursery environment.

## The Government funding does not cover

### Food

Children have access to breakfast, morning snack, hot lunch, afternoon snack and tea plus milk and water to drink.

### Toiletries

Everything your child may need to ensure they are healthy and happy in nursery. This includes items such as suncream, wipes, soap, tissues, and sudocreme.

### Additional activities

Trips, outings and special events which may happen throughout the year.

**We ask parents to pay a consumable charge to cover the cost of these items. This currently stands at £10 per day.**

## 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.

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

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

**For childcare prices, please contact our nursery office. Please be aware that prices are subject to a price increase every April and the current prices may not yet reflect any future prices increase.**