Parents Funding Guide April 2026

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.

What funding is available?

From September 2025, the Government will offer 30 hours of funded childcare (term time only) to eligible working families. At Little Oaks Nursery, we aim to make the most of this funding while maintaining financial stability and transparency in our pricing.

Eligible non working families may receive 15 hours of funded childcare (term time only) from the term after their child turns 2.

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 I find out if I am eligible?

Eligibility criteria can be found on the Childcare Choices website:

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. If your code expires, you may be eligible for paying full fees for childcare booked.

What does the Government Funding cover?

The Government provides up to **1140 hours of funded childcare per year**, typically 30 hours per week for 38 weeks. This can also be stretched across the full year. While the funding helps cover nursery costs, it does not cover everything. A breakdown of what's included is provided overleaf.

As a not-for-profit charity, we reinvest all surplus into the nursery to enhance the experience for every child. To remain sustainable and continue offering the little extras that make nursery special, we ask for a small voluntary daily charge to cover costs not included in the funding. If you prefer not to pay this charge, please see our consumables policy.

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 needs 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.

How do we deliver the funded hours?

At Little Oaks Nursery, we aim to offer flexible childcare that meets family needs while ensuring our long-term sustainability.
We have a clear funding structure (outlined below) to support this. Since we don't offer hourly care, funded hours cover part of a full-day session. The remaining hours are charged at our standard rate and detailed on your invoice.

Many working families need more than the funded hours, so we've designed our sessions to be more well suited to working patterns. This includes stretching the funding over 51 weeks instead of 38, helping to spread costs more evenly throughout the year. For families who are in receipt of non working funding, we provide shorter, more regular sessions on a term time only basis and there is no charge for these sessions.

The formula below applies to children starting in September and may vary slightly for those starting in January or April.

Funding breakdown for families eligible for 30 hours

1140 hours per year divided by 51 weeks per year = 22.36 hours per week

22.36 hours divided by 3 days per week = 7.45 hours of funding per day.

22.36 hours divided by 5 sessions per week = 4.47 hours per day.

Session type	Hours	Number of sessions per week (all year round)	Total number of hours per session	Funded hours	Paid hours
Extended day	7.30 am—6. 00 pm	3	10.5	7.45	3.05
Standard day	8.00 am—5.00 pm	3	9	7.45	1.55
Fully funded session	1.00 pm—5.30 pm	5	4.5	4.5	0

Funding breakdown for families eligible for 15 hours

570 hours per year divided by 38 weeks per year = 15 hours per week

15 hours divided by 4 sessions per week = 3.75 hours of funding per day

Session type	Hours	Number of sessions per week (term time only)	Total number of hours per session
Morning session	8.00 am—11.45 am	4	3.75
Afternoon session	1.00 pm—4.45 pm	4	3.75

How much do sessions cost?

The pricing structure below provides a guide of how much you are likely to pay for your childcare. The costs below are inclusive of consumables charges and any additional hours. If you choose not to pay the voluntary contribution, you will need to provide you own meals and resources as these are not covered by the funding. These are outlined in our Lunch Box Policy and Consumables Policy. Please be aware that the funded hours are calculated for the academic year (September to August) and therefore there will be a slight variation depending on the time of year you become eligible for the funding.

Working family 30 hours Funding	Hours	Minimum number of days (all year round)	Cost per month
Funded extended day	7.30 am – 6.00 pm	3	£455.21
Funded standard day	8.00 am – 5.00 pm	3	£317.73
Fully funded hours	1.00 pm – 5.30 pm	5	£0*

* A voluntary contribution of £10 per day is requested to cover the cost of consumables which are not covered by the funding.

You may choose to add on additional sessions to your funded hours. The prices are outlined below. These prices are inclusive of all meals and consumables. You will only need to provide nappies.

Additional sessions	Hours	Cost
Extended day	7.30 am – 6.00 pm	£85 per day
Standard day	8.00 am – 5.00 pm	£81 per day
Full week of extended day sessions (Mon—Fri)	7.30 am—6.00 pm	£405 per week
Full week of standard day sessions (Mon-Fri)	8.00 am—5.00 pm	£385 per week

Please be advised that all sessions are subject to availability and must be booked on a regular weekly basis. If you require additional sessions, please enquire at the office and we will check availability. We hope that you have found this guide useful. If you have any further questions, please email the office at info@littleoaksnurseryleeds.co.uk.