

## Funding Policy

Nursery Education Funding is government-funded childcare support offered for 38 weeks of the year. This can be delivered in full over 38 weeks or stretched over additional weeks, with a maximum of 10 hours per day claimable.

How funded hours are applied

Government-funded childcare entitlements provide a number of childcare hours free of charge, subject to eligibility and Local Authority guidance.

The funded entitlement is the hours themselves, not a monetary amount deducted from fees. Fees are charged only for privately attended (non-funded) hours, at the nursery's published rates.

### Funding available

Child Age	38 week Offering	Eligibility
2 years	15 hours	Families receiving Government support
3 - 4 years	15 hours	All Parents
From 9 months - 4 years	30 hours	Eligible Working Families

### Eligibility Criteria

If your child is born between:	They are eligible for a place from:
1 April and 31 August	1 September after reaching 9mths*, second or third birthday until statutory school age of 5
1 September and 31 December	1 January after reaching 9mths*, second or third birthday until statutory school age of 5
1 January and 31 March	1 April after reaching 9mths*, second or third birthday until statutory school age of 5

\*Check government eligibility criteria regarding when you return to work

### Our Approach to Funding

The government provides funding for 15 or 30 hours per week for only 38 weeks of the year. This equates to:

- **570 hours** per year (for 15-hour funding)
- **1,140 hours** per year (for 30-hour funding)

Since we operate 51 weeks per year, we stretch this funding across the full year, meaning the weekly funded hours are lower than the stated 15 or 30 hours. We commonly refer to these as the "15 or 30 offer", as shown in the tables within our Schedule of Fees, the actual weekly hours are reduced when stretched and the number of funding hours per day varies by attendance pattern. These adjusted hours are all outlined within the Schedule of Fees.

### Eligibility & Code Requirements

Eligibility for working parent entitlement must be confirmed through HMRC, and a valid eligibility code must be provided. Codes must be renewed every three months. Codes can only be applied from the term after your child's qualifying birthday or after they have reached 9 months.

## **Transparency of Charges**

All providers must clearly show how funded hours are delivered and what additional charges apply. To comply with this, we have:

- Broken down our pricing into additional hours, food, consumables, and activity charges
- Sessions that allow you to attend at no cost, in patterns that we plan out for efficiency
- Created flexible fully inclusive offers where parents choose one of our **All-In** packages at a favourable rate. If you're not eligible for funding, please speak to us about private fees.

## **Pricing & Billing Model**

Our nursery operates 51 weeks a year, using an equalised billing system:

- Fees are paid for 52 weeks and are split equally across 12 months
- Funded hours are only delivered on days your child is booked to attend
- Full fees are charged for bank holidays and training days
- Charges remain consistent to support predictable monthly payments \*

## **Rounding & Calculation Disclosure**

\*Fees are calculated using a combination of annual, monthly, and term-based funding allocations, and are processed through our nursery management system.

As a result, small variations of a few pounds or pence may occur due to rounding, funding distribution across terms, or system calculations. These differences do not represent a change in fees and do not affect the overall accuracy of the charges applied. All fees are calculated in line with our published rates and funding entitlements.

## **Additional Charges Explained**

### **Consumables include but are not limited to:**

- tissues
- cotton wool
- nappy sacks
- cooking materials
- science kits
- seasonal resources

### **Activities include but are not limited to:**

- Enrichment sessions (e.g., yoga, drama, football, music, specialist visitors)
- Seasonal events
- Trips out
- Gifts (e.g., for Mother's Day, Fathers Day, Easter, Christmas)
- Festivals & celebrations resources e.g. Diwali, Chinese New Year, Christmas
- Gardening & growing

## **Food**

- Breakfast
- Snack
- 2 course hot lunch
- Afternoon snack
- Food tasting

- Food for celebrations

### **Are these charges mandatory?**

**No.** You may opt out of some or all additional charges.

However:

- Your child may be excluded from certain activities and resources if you choose not to pay for them.
- The **core Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) provision** will **always** be provided at no cost, ensuring no compromise to their basic education.

### **Flexible Funding Models**

We offer two flexible options:

- **Enhanced All-In Package:** this bundles all extended hours, meals, consumables, and activities into a best value monthly rate. Ideal for convenience.

Please note:

- 30 hours funding is only offered as a stretched model over 51 weeks.
- A limited number of 38-week places are available for 15 hours only
- We encourage early applications as sessions can fill up quickly.

### **Termly Funding Allocations**

Our local authority calculates funding differently each term, meaning the **number of funded hours varies per term**. The Termly Funding Allocations tables in the Schedule of Fees illustrate how we receive and allocate these hours.

Additionally, the number of funded hours your child receives will depend on:

- **Which term they start funding for the first time**
- **How many terms remain in that academic year**

### **Attendance Monitoring & Responsible Use of Funds**

We are required to ensure that government funding is used as intended and in full:

Where you attend for **funded only** hours:

- You must ensure that you do not arrive late or collect early with any frequency
- Your attendance should not drop below an acceptable level

We may have funded hours removed in these instances and so will apply **additional hourly charges** to you to cover any removal of funding.

### **Claiming Process**

To claim Nursery Education Funding at our nursery you must:

- Complete both the Funding Parental Agreement and the Local Authority Parental Declaration Form
- Refer to our Admissions & Waiting List Policy for guidance on place allocation.

### **Final Notes**

Once your child is eligible for funding, we will support you in accessing the right pattern for your needs. The nursery reserves the right to revise packages in line with government guidance and funding changes.

Little Rainbow aims to be fully transparent, fair, and flexible while supporting high-quality childcare for every family.

Policy revised annually