

SUNFLOWERS DAY NURSERIES

30 Hours Funding Frequently Asked Questions

What funded hours am I entitled to?

All 3- and 4-year old's in England are entitled to 15 hours of funded nursery education for 38 weeks or stretched for the equivalent number of hours across more weeks per year. This is a universal entitlement for all children and applies until they reach compulsory school age (the term following their fifth birthday).

The 15 hours extended childcare entitlement for working parents of 3- and 4-year old's is a new government scheme to help families by reducing the cost of childcare.

** Please note that the government funded initiative is intended to deliver 15 or 30 hours a week [over 38 weeks] of funded, high quality, flexible childcare. It is not intended to cover the cost of meals, other consumables, additional hours or additional services. **

How many hours is this per week?

The guidelines state 15 hours a week based on a 38-week year, term-time only. If you are 'stretching' your hours across the full year this will vary depending on how many days you attend nursery.

What does 'stretching' the hours mean?

The 15 or 30 hours funded cover 38 weeks of the year, term time only. If your child attends nursery 51 weeks of the year we can 'stretch' the hours to cover the full year, making it most cost effective for you.

When does my child qualify for funded hours?

Children will qualify for a funded early education place the term after their third birthday. Please note children are NOT eligible as soon as they turn three.

If your child is born between:	They are eligible for a place from:
1 st January – 31 st March	Start of Summer Term after their third birthday until they go to school

1 st April – 31 st August	Start of Autumn Term after their third birthday until they go to school
1 st September – 31 st December	Start of Spring Term after their third birthday before they go to school

Will I automatically qualify for 30 hours?

No. All families are entitled to 15 hours funded, the additional 15 hours (30 hours) will depend on whether you meet the eligibility criteria stipulated by the Government.

Do I qualify for the extended entitlement?

You can apply for the extended free entitlement for 3- and 4-year old's if:

- You and your partner (or the sole parent in a lone parent family), are in work with each parents earning, on average, a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at National Minimum Wage (NMW) or National Living Wage (NLW) and not more than £100,000 or more for at least one parent per household per year.
- This includes self-employed parents and those parents on zero contracted hours who meet the criteria.

Details of eligibility are detailed in this document:

<https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-and-education-for-2-to-4-yearolds>

I am eligible, will I automatically receive the funded additional hours?

No. You must apply for the additional funded hours via Gov.uk. Applications can be completed online:

<https://www.gov.uk/sign-in-childcare-account>

Before you start, make sure you have the below (for you and your partner):

- Your National Insurance Number
- If self-employed, your Unique Tax Reference
- The date you started, or due to start work
- Details of any other government support you get

Is there a deadline by which I should apply?

Yes. The deadlines are as follows:

- January intake: official deadline 31 December, HMRC recommend 30 November
- April intake: official deadline 31 March, HMRC recommends 28 February
- September intake: official deadline 31 August, HMRC recommends 31 July

Once I know I am eligible for 30 hours, is my child automatically entitled to the hours until they attend school?

No. Employment circumstances may change from time to time, parents will receive a prompt reminder every 3 months from HMRC to reconfirm their details so that their eligibility can be re-assessed. We advise you check your emails regularly to avoid missing your reminder.

How long can I claim for?

This is a universal entitlement for all children and applies until they reach compulsory school age (the term following their fifth birthday).

What if I am no longer eligible – is there a grace period?

Please remember the Government believes it is right to ensure there will be a short grace period for families whose circumstances change. This will give parents the opportunity to regain employment ensuring your child will receive continuity throughout this period.

My child attends two separate settings, can I split my funded hours between them?

Yes. If your other setting accepts funded hours, we can calculate the hours and fees due accordingly. Please make sure you have confirmed to us this is what you are wishing to do prior to the beginning of term.

What happens after I have applied?

Once your application has been reviewed and approved, you will receive a voucher code for your child/children.

You then need to email your eligibility code to sunflowers.nurseries@outlook.com along with your child's details and your national insurance number. You should do this as soon as

possible in order to be able to access the hours for the following term and for us to create your funded invoice.

I don't feel the Daily Support Charge is justified. Can I elect not to receive these support costs?

The daily support cost is a compulsory element of our fees. They are to ensure we are fully equipped to support your child to the standards we have committed to. Other than if you have a funded only, term-time only (38 weeks of the year), you have the option to opt-out of paying for meals and other consumables and need to supply them yourself. The daily support cost includes, but is not limited to, meals, snacks, events, classroom resources and consumables.

Where can I obtain more information?

If you have any questions, please refer to the HMRC website (<https://www.gov.uk/getchildcare>), which hopefully details all information required.

If you have any queries regarding the above, please can we ask that you email Maddy via the following email address: sunflowers.nurseries@outlook.com

General Funding Reminders

- Children **CANNOT** increase their funding mid-term
- Children **CANNOT** reduce their hours with one setting and then transfer these to another setting mid-term. This must be agreed before the start of each term.
- Children **CANNOT** start to claim their funding mid-term they must be claiming this from the beginning of the term.
- 4 weeks' notice must be given to remove all funded hours from one setting.
- You must have a signed parental agreement in place for the start of each new term.
- Any late submissions or failure to comply with the details included in the 2020-21 Provider Agreement may be subject to a £50 fine
- Failure to comply with any of the above may affect your funding claim.

SUNFLOWERS DAY NURSERIES

2-Year-Old Funding Frequently Asked Questions

Do I qualify for 2-year-old funding?

You can qualify if one parent or carer is receiving one of the following:

- Income support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) Universal Credit
- Tax credits and has an annual income of under £16,190 before tax
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit support through part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act
- The Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

Or:

A 2-year old can also receive funded early education and childcare if any of the following apply:

- They are looked after by local authority
- They have a current statement of special educational needs (SEN) or an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- They receive Disability Living Allowance
- They've left care under special guardianship order, child arrangements order or adoption order Eligibility can be checked online: www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs

If I am eligible, how can I register?

You should have received a letter from the local authority informing you of this, simply take this to your nursery manager who will help you with the next steps to take. Alternatively, if you feel you are eligible and have not received a letter you can use the childcare calculator <https://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator>

Or:

Your nursery manager will advise the number to call to contact the local authority to assist you with this process. You will need the following information:

- Your full name
- Date of birth
- Address
- Name of child and details
- National Insurance Number

Where can I obtain more information?

If you have any questions, please refer to the HMRC website (<https://www.gov.uk/getchildcare>), which hopefully details all information required. If you have any queries regarding the above, please can we ask that you email Maddy via the following email address: sunflowers.nurseries@outlook.com

General Funding Reminders

- Children **CANNOT** increase their funding mid-term
- Children **CANNOT** reduce their hours with one setting and then transfer these to another setting mid-term. This must be agreed before the start of each term.
- Children **CANNOT** start to claim their funding mid-term they must be claiming this from the beginning of the term.
- 4 weeks' notice must be given to remove all funded hours from one setting.
- You must have a signed parental agreement in place for the start of each new term.
- Any late submissions or failure to comply with the details included in the 2020-21 Provider Agreement may be subject to a £50 fine
- Failure to comply with any of the above may affect your funding claim.