



## Our Fees and Funding Guide

April 2026



# Funding Options

- ▶ Explained



# Childcare 30 Hours Government Funding

## What is 30 hours childcare Government funding?

This funding is for children aged 9 months to 4 years. Eligible working families can apply for 30 hours of childcare to use from the **term after** their child turns 9 months until they reach school age.

Government funding contributes towards the cost of up to 30 hours of childcare but does not cover the full cost of delivering a nursery place. The 30 hours must be able to be accessed free of charge to parents. This offers 1140 hours of funding per year.

## What is covered in 30 hours funding?

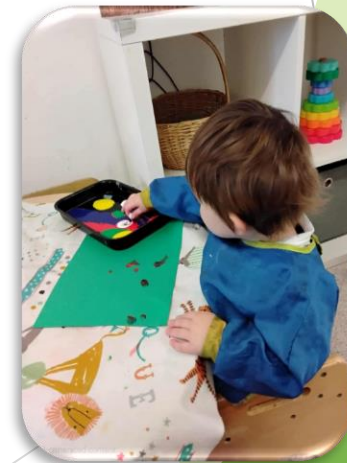
30 hours funding covers 38 weeks a year only to mirror the offering of school term times.

It covers the cost of staffing and EYFS basic mandatory resources such as simple craft resources. It is important to note that Government funding is **not** intended to cover the full cost of childcare.

## What isn't covered in 30 hours funding?

30 hours funding doesn't cover:

- 21 weeks a year which we are open for
- Meals and snacks
- Additional hours
- Additional consumables and extra curricular activities



# 30 hours Eligibility

## **Working family funded childcare**

This scheme is for qualifying working parents.

The funded hours are provided across 38 weeks during term time and, if you're living with your partner you'll need to apply together.

### **Parents:**

- Should be working at least 16 hours a week
- Can be on sick leave or parental leave
- Must each earn less than £100,000 a year
- Might still be eligible while claiming benefits.

We 'stretch' these hours and how that works varies between nurseries as some Local Authorities have their own requirements regarding this. When you are eligible for 30 hours you can access up to 22.35 funded hours per week, across 51 weeks with us.

We can offer your child more than their funded hours per week, if you need them. These additional hours are paid for and are referred to as non-funded hours.

There are some other specific things that can affect your eligibility which you can find more information on, on the government website: [gov.uk/browse/benefits](https://www.gov.uk/browse/benefits)

# When do I apply for my code?



If my child turns 9 months old between	I can access 30 funded hours from	And I need to apply by
1 January to 31 March	Term starting on or after 1 April	31 March
1 April to 31 August	Term starting on or after 1 September	31 August
1 September to 31 December	Term starting on or after 1 January	31 December

- You will be able to take up your hours the term **after** you meet the eligibility criteria.
- You can apply for your code up to 16 weeks before your baby turns 9 months
- We need to register this code by the **last day of the term** if you wish to start part way through a term.
- If you miss this deadline, we can not use your code until the following term
- You must renew this code **every 3 months**

# Applying on Maternity/paternity/adoption leave

Yes, your return to work date can affect when you can apply for your code and when you can use it from

We can offer full fee paying places before your funding starts if required.



Date of starting or returning to work	When you can apply from	Then you can access your entitlements from
1 October to 31 January	1 September to 31 December	1 January
1 February to 31 April	1 January to 31 March	1 April
1 May to 31 September	1 April to 31 August	1 September

# Childcare 15 Hours Government Funding

**I don't think I can get 30 hours Childcare, is there any thing else?**

Yes, the Government also offer 15 hours funding childcare. This is a total of 570 hours per year.

This is only for children aged 3 and 4 years old.

**Am I eligible?**

This is a universal offer from the Government for all Children of this age to attend nursery or Pre - School



# Think 2 Funding

## What about if my child is under 3?

Staffordshire County Council offer Think2 Funding for Children from the term after their 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday.

[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Children-and-early-years/Childcare/think2/Funded-2-year-places-Families-receiving-support.aspx](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Children-and-early-years/Childcare/think2/Funded-2-year-places-Families-receiving-support.aspx)

## Am I eligible?

Think2 Funding is for 2 year olds whose parents receive additional Government support.

If the family claims any one of the below, they could be eligible:

- ▶ Income Support
- ▶ Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (JSA)
- ▶ Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- ▶ Universal Credit, and your household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax and NI contributions, and not including benefits
- ▶ The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- ▶ The Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

# Stretched Funding

## What is Stretched funding?

We are open for 51 weeks a year so we stretch your funding options to cover this period equally.

As a small independent nursery, we offer **limited** term time only places as we have to ensure the financial viability of our nursery.

Childcare  
**Choices**

- ▶ Stretched funding offers a fairer monthly bill as it reduces full rates each month making it easier to manage your invoice.
- ▶ Better for children as a consistent routine helps our Little Learners settle quicker into their routine with us.

30 hours becomes 22.35 hours a week – this still ensures the full 1140 hours entitlement per year.

15 hours becomes 11 hours a week – this still works out to 570 hours per year.

# Tax free Childcare

## Is there any help for none funded hours?

Yes, the Government fund a scheme called Tax Free Childcare where they contribute 20% to your nursery invoice.

## Can I use this in addition to my funded hours?

Yes you can, we will accept payment through Childcare Choices.

Simply apply for your account at the following link:

[gov.uk/free-childcare-if-working/apply-for-free-childcare-if-youre-working](https://gov.uk/free-childcare-if-working/apply-for-free-childcare-if-youre-working)

## How do I know if I am eligible?

- ▶ To be eligible for Tax-Free Childcare, you, and your partner (if you have one), must:
- ▶ be at least 16 years old
- ▶ be in the UK, or treated as being in the UK
- ▶ be responsible for the child you are applying for
- ▶ be in qualifying paid work, which can include being:
  - ▶ self-employed
  - ▶ on shared parental, maternity, paternity, or adoption leave
  - ▶ on sick leave or annual leave
- ▶ expect to earn on average at least a weekly amount equivalent to 16 hours a week at the National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage over the next 3 months
- ▶ not have an adjusted net income of more than £100,000 per year
- ▶ not be in receipt of:
  - ▶ Universal Credit
  - ▶ Childcare Vouchers

# ▶ Fees Explained



# Understanding Nursery Fees and Government Funding

## The Reality of Delivering High-Quality Childcare

While Government funding supports early education, it **does not cover the full cost of delivering nursery care.**

At Oakbridge Little Learners we provide:

- Qualified early years educators
  - Small staff-to-child ratios for safety and learning
  - A structured EYFS curriculum
  - A safe and well-maintained learning environment
  - Enriching activities and experiences
- ▶ Government funding contributes towards these costs but does **not fully fund them.**

# A Typical Day at Nursery

Example cost of delivering a nursery place:

Cost Area	Typical Contribution
Staffing and Training	Largest Cost – around 70 / 75%
Food and Snacks	Daily Provision
Utilities and Building Costs	Heating, lighting, maintenance
Learning Resources	Toys, books, craft materials
Insurance and Safeguarding	Ofsted, Compliance, Training

Government funding contributes towards these costs, but **families may still see charges for additional hours, meals, and optional extras.**

# Our Booking Patterns

<b>Full Day Rate:</b>	£62.50	8:00 - 18:00
<b>Extended School Day:</b>	£50.50	8:00 - 16:00
<b>Morning Session Rate:</b>	£31.25	8:00 - 13:00
<b>Afternoon Session Rate:</b>	£31.25	13:00 - 18:00
<b>Early Start:</b>	£4.50	7:30 - 8:00
<i>Excluded from funding</i>		

*Fees are correct at printing April 2026*

Our booking patterns are fixed sessions to ensure that our staff are ready to meet your Little One from the start and wave them goodbye at the end.

We **do not** offer hourly session rates, as a small business we have to consider the financial impact on our business to offer bespoke booking sessions.

# Our Optional Extras

<b>Breakfast (8:00 - 8:30):</b>	£1.00	Daily
<i>Funded add on</i>		
<b>Lunch:</b>	£2.80	Daily
<b>High Tea:</b>	£2.50	Daily
<b>Consumables:</b>	£0.20	Daily
<b>Extra Curricular:</b>	£0.80	Daily
<b>Oakbridge Musicians*</b>	£1.00	38 Week
<b>Oakbridge Mindfulness*</b>	£1.00	38 Weeks

Government funding does not cover the cost of the above extras. The next few slides explain what your contribution can help us provide your Little Learner above and beyond the EYFS national expectation.

\*These sessions are delivered by external providers

# Oakbridge Extras

We are passionate about bringing the best practice and experiences we can to all of our Little Learners. We are proud to offer a range of extra curriculum experiences at our setting above and beyond what the EYFS expectation is. Government funding alone cannot cover the full cost of delivering these experiences.

By an inclusive £0.80 daily contribution we can bring.....



An inclusive £0.80 daily contribution allows us to fund:

- ▶ Ingredients
- ▶ Utensils
- ▶ Baking trays
- ▶ Weighing scales
- ▶ Delivered once a week



An inclusive £0.80 daily contribution allows us to fund:

- ▶ Soil
- ▶ Planters
- ▶ Seeds
- ▶ Tools
- ▶ Safety cones
- ▶ Gardening gloves
- ▶ Delivered once a week



An inclusive £0.80 daily contribution allows us to fund:

- ▶ Seasonal crafts such as Christmas, Easter, Mothers/Fathers Day
- ▶ Stay and Play sessions
- ▶ Parties
- ▶ Delivered throughout the year



## Mini me Mindfulness

*Preschool Only*

£1.00 Contribution for 38 weeks

This allows us to run two sessions a month with Lucy, an external provider, during term time. These sessions are very popular with our Oaks Preschool. We are passionate about giving our Little Learners the support to manage their mental health and can see the positive impact it has on their transition to school.



## The Singing Academy

£1.00 Contribution for 38 weeks

This allows us to run two sessions a month with Claire, an external provider, during term time. These sessions are accessed across our setting where we bring music and movement to our Little Learners. Music brings smiles, laughter and happiness as we dance together.



▶ FAQ's



# FAQ's

## How do you charge your fees?

Fees are charged for your child's booked place with us rather than for attendance. This means fees remain payable during absences such as holidays or short periods of sickness, as staffing and operational costs continue.

We are closed for Christmas and all Bank Holidays, and no fees are charged for these closure days.

## Where can I find further funding information?

Please see <https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/> for further funding help and guidance.



# FAQ's

## How does stretched funding work if I need additional hours?

If you require more childcare hours than your funded entitlement, these are charged as non-funded hours.

Our Nursery in a Box invoice system automatically applies your funded hours evenly across the year and deducts these from your total sessions, providing a clear and consistent monthly invoice.

### Example:

*A full day session is £60.00. Depending on your funding entitlement, the funded portion is deducted, and you are only charged for any remaining non-funded hours.*

Full Day  
£62.50  
10 hours funded  
Daily Fee Cost  
£0.00  
+ Optional Extras

Full Day  
£62.50  
10 hours funded  
Daily Fee Cost  
£0.00  
+ Optional Extras

Full Day  
£62.50  
2.35 hours funded  
Daily Fee Cost  
£47.81  
+ Optional Extras

Full Day  
£62.50  
0 hours funded  
Daily Fee Cost  
£62.50  
+ Optional Extras



# FAQ's

Our consumables and extras are voluntary contributions designed to enhance the experiences we offer our Little Learners.

If you choose not to take part:

- ▶ Your child will continue to access **high-quality, age-appropriate EYFS-led activities** at all times.
- ▶ Suitable snacks will need to be provided from home in line with our Packed Lunch Policy.
- ▶ During times when optional extras take place, your child will take part in an **alternative EYFS activity** that is equally engaging and supportive of their learning and development.

No child is excluded, treated differently, or disadvantaged as a result of a family's decision regarding voluntary contributions.



# FAQ's

## **What if my child leaves?**

Government early education funding is allocated to the child rather than the nursery. If a child leaves Oakbridge Little Learners or reduces their attendance, the remaining funding may transfer to another provider in accordance with Staffordshire County Council funding rules.

## **Funded places**

All funded places are offered in accordance with the Staffordshire County Council Provider Agreement. Funding eligibility, entitlement and payments are determined by the Local Authority and may change in line with Government policy.

## **Code Renewal**

Parents are responsible for renewing their eligibility code every three months. If a code expires or becomes invalid, funding will stop and full nursery fees will apply until a valid code is provided.

# FAQ's

## Are consumables or extras compulsory?

- ▶ No. Consumables and extras are **voluntary for funded-only places** and families can opt in or out at the end of each term.
- ▶ These contributions help us to reduce our daily fees while continuing to offer enriching experiences beyond the EYFS minimum. Government funding alone does not cover these additional activities.
- ▶ We value open communication and warmly encourage families to speak with us if they have any questions or circumstances they would like us to consider. Our priority is always to work together in the best interests of our children.



# Our Commitment to Families

- ▶ Every child at Oakbridge Little Learners receives a safe, nurturing, and enriching EYFS curriculum.
- ▶ High – Quality early education
- ▶ Transparent fees
- ▶ Clear communication with our families
- ▶ Voluntary contributions help enhance experiences, but participation is always optional, and no child will ever be disadvantaged.
- ▶ No child will be excluded, treated differently, or disadvantaged as a result of a family's decision regarding voluntary contributions.

