

La Petite Academy

Funded Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) Information Sheet

Government funding is provided to support parents with nursery fees. When your child becomes eligible for this depends on your personal circumstances.

Although we are open 52 weeks of the year, the way the Government work out funding is linked to school term times and is for 38 weeks of the year only. That means that if you attend for more than 38 weeks per year, we 'stretch' your funded hours so that you always pay the same price per session to enable families to budget effectively.

How do I find out if I am eligible?

All families with 3- and 4-year-olds, can access 15 weekly hours of funded care. Some families who meet the criteria of 'working families', can access 30 weekly hours of funded care from the term after their child is 9 months old.

You can find out what funding you are currently entitled to by visiting <https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/eligibility-checker/> and entering your details. This page will also help you to claim tax free childcare, tax credits for childcare, universal credit for childcare and support whilst you study.

Some families of 2-year-olds are eligible for 'Flying Start' funding for 15 hours of care. This is issued by the Local Authority, and you can find out more at <https://www.derby.gov.uk/community-and-living/family-hub-childcare/childcare-and-early-years-education/funded-early-learning-2-year-olds> . Families need to be in receipt of certain benefits for this funding.

The nursery cannot help you to determine what your entitlement is as this is dependent on several factors.

If your child is under 3 years old and you do not meet the government criteria for 'working parents' or the 'Flying Start' then you will not be entitled to any of these funded hours.

How do I prove I am eligible?

If you are eligible for working parent funding, you will receive an 11-digit code which you will need to keep safe as you need to write it on your FEEE form every term. Your code needs revalidating every term to keep it updated. If you do not revalidate this code, then you will lose access to the working parent element of your childcare and be liable to pay for it

yourself. The code itself will stay the same. Although the nursery will endeavour to remind parents to revalidate their code, this is the responsibility of the parent.

If you are eligible for flying start funding, once you have your code you do not need to revalidate it again.

All children are entitled to 15 hours funding from the term after they turn 3. You do not need a code at all if you are just having your 15 hours entitlement.

When will my child receive their funding?

Funding starts from the term after the child's birthday. Children born 1st September to 31st December access funding from January; children born 1st January to 31st March access funding from April; and children born 1st April to 31st August access funding from September.

The funding for children from 9 months old, this is also the term after they turn 9 months. For example, if your child is 9 months old in May, they will be eligible for funded hours from September.

How do I receive the funded hours at nursery?

Funding can be taken as 'term time only' over 38 weeks of the year, or 'stretched' over 47.5 or 52 weeks of the year.

You choose how to 'spend' your hours each week and sign up to this package each term on a funding form which we will give you. Without the completed, signed form being returned with your code on (where relevant) we cannot access your funding, and you will be eligible to pay for any hours taken. The form will need completing every term (3 times per year).

Term Time Only Funding

Term time only places are: 9am - 3pm (30 hours, 5 sessions per week) or 9am - 4:30pm (15 hours, 2 sessions per week). If you want additional care outside of these times, then you can purchase wrap around care before and/or after these session times and in school holidays, which is detailed on our pricing structures. If you would like to use your funded hours against a full day, 7:30am to 6pm, you can allocate up to 10 funded hours per day.

Stretched Funding

Stretched funding enables parents to send their child to nursery for 52 weeks per year, with the equivalent of 22 hours per week being funded for 30 hour places, and 11 hours per week funded for 15 hour places. Or

for 47.5 weeks per year, with 24 or 12 hours per week funded. These children will not attend nursery for the first week of the Easter holidays, the first two full weeks of August and the two weeks of the Christmas holidays.

Stretched funding sessions are 7:30am to 1:15pm, 7:30am to 6pm, 8:30am to 3:30pm, 9am to 4pm or 1:15pm to 6pm. Please refer to the fee schedules for current prices for the different sessions and for different age groups. No stretched places are completely free as they all include wrap around care and meal costs.

Due to the way that stretched funding is allocated across the year, children born between 1st September and 30th March will have either 2 or 3 weeks in the first year of funding when they will not receive any funding. Unless parents state otherwise, then full price will be charged for these weeks. Please see the Admissions and Charging Policy for more information. Should your child leave mid-term on stretched funding, or move from stretched to term time only, your yearly funding allocation will need to be reworked and there may be a top up balance required.

How do I tell nursery what my eligibility is?

Every term we will send you a FEEE form to complete. If you are a two-parent household, then both parents' details must be included. All yellow highlighted sections need completing, including the consent form and parent declaration. Please ask if you need help to do this, particularly with section 9.

You will be given a deadline for returning the form each term, this is linked to the Local Authority timescales for payment of funding. Late return of forms can result in your child not being allocated your preferred session or loss of funded hours and/or place at the setting. This is the responsibility of the parent.

Can I have a free place at nursery?

Although the Government do advertise the funded hours as 'free' you will still have to pay for any additional hours taken as wrap around care or on stretched funding, as well as any meals, consumables and extra charges.

You can bring in all meals and consumables if you only take funded hours. Please ask for an information sheet about this as there are strict rules governing this.

How do I know how much I will have to pay?

We provide fee schedules for all the different options available to you. We do not organise bespoke sessions outside of these structures. When you

are choosing your session package you will identify this on your FEEE form. If we cannot provide the sessions requested, you will be contacted to arrange an alternative.

There are different prices depending on the number of weeks your child attends and the type of funding they get. Please be aware that as your child moves into a different age bracket for funding it will become more expensive as we will not have the additional savings to pass on to you.

Invoices are emailed to parents on the 15th of each month for the following month's fees. This will require payment to clear in our bank by the 1st of the month to which it relates.

Do I have to use all of my hours?

No. You sign up each term to let us know the hours you wish to use. This can then be increased or decreased at the start of the following term. Due to the way that we are given the funding money by the local authority there is a deadline each term by which to make any changes. Please ask for a 'session change' form should you wish to make a mid-term change, but this is not always possible.

Can I use Tax Free Childcare (TFC) alongside funding?

Yes, you can use this scheme to save up to 20% on your childcare costs, as long as you are a taxpayer and aren't receiving Tax Credits, Universal Credit or childcare vouchers. You can be self-employed. TFC needs revalidating every 3 months. Again, visit <https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/eligibility-checker/> to check if you are eligible.

All of our pricing structures show an indicative cost when TFC is applied.

If you cannot use TFC as you are on Universal Credit (<https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit>), do speak with your job centre advisor as you may be eligible to have up to 85% of your childcare fees paid.

We hope that you find this information useful. If you would like any further clarification, please speak to a manager.

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