Early Years Funding Entitlement

A Guide for Parents and Carers

England - March 2026

Wildflower
Day nurseries & pre-schools

30 hour and 15 hour funding

Wildflower Day Nurseries & Pre-Schools will adhere to and follow Local Authority guidelines based on the Department for Education (DfE) Early Years Entitlements: Operational Guidance for Local Authorities and Providers on the delivery of free early education for children aged 9 months to 4 years.

What is Early Years Funded Entitlement?

Most Parents/Carers are entitled to 1140 hours of funded childcare per year, starting from the term **after the child turns 9 months old.**
1140 hours of funded childcare is commonly referred to as “30 hour funding”. 570 hours of funded childcare is commonly known as “15 hour funding”. 15 and 30 hour funding is based on a term-time only basis (39 weeks per year).
Wildflower Day Nurseries & Pre-Schools offers EYEE over 51 weeks per year. Children accessing 51 weeks will be able to stretch their funding across the additional weeks of attendance at a lower number of hours claimed per week. For children who are eligible for 1140 hours of funding will receive 22 hours per week of funded childcare.

Eligibility

Parents/Carers must meet criteria to be eligible for funding. Visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk to check your eligibility. If you are not eligible for 1140 hours (30 hour) funding, all families are eligible for 570 hours (15 hour) funding.

Application

You can apply for funded childcare here. Please see the below table for a guide on when to apply. Your child will usually be eligible for funding the term after they turn 9 months old. Once you have applied, you will be provided with a code. You must notify us of that code as soon as you receive it. Please email our Fees Office, with your Childs name, Nursery Name, Childs DOB, and your code. Without the code, we cannot claim the funding.

Working Family Funding for when the child becomes eligible		**Universal Funded Childcare**	
Recommended time to apply for eligibility code:	Last date to apply for eligibility code:	A child turning 3 between:	Can be funded from:
15 October - 30 November	31 December to be funded from 1 January	1 September - 31 December	1 January
15 January - 28 February	31 March to be funded from 1 April	1 January - 31 March	1 April
15 June - 31 July	31 August to be funded from 1 September	1 April - 31 August	1 September

Reconfirmation

You must reconfirm your eligibility every 3 months on the government website. You will usually receive an email reminder, however sometimes these reminders do not arrive, so we recommend that you mark it in your calendar. If you do not reconfirm, your funding may be withheld.

Tax Free Childcare

Tax Free Childcare can be used alongside Funded Childcare.
When you apply for your Funded Childcare, you can apply for Tax Free Childcare at the same time via GOV.UK.
Once your Tax Free Childcare account is set up, you can add money to the account, and the government will add 20% extra. For example, if you add £8, the government will add £2, totalling £10 to spend.
You can use this calculator to calculate how much you need to put into your account, based on your invoice amount.

Eligibility must be reconfirmed every 3 months, at the same time as reconfirmation for Funded Childcare.

Parents/Carers can set up a monthly regular payment from the Tax Free Childcare account, or payment can be made manually via the account.

Tax Free Childcare can be used up until the age of 18, towards breakfast clubs/extra curricular activities/holiday clubs throughout school.