

You can find below the different types of childcare funding available, including eligibility criteria and the support offered for each funding type. Please consult the Childcare Support Checker website using the link below to check your eligibility. Eligibility checker: [Childcare Eligibility Checker - Best Start in Life](#)

Funding Type	Age	Hours Available	Who Qualifies	More Information
Working Parents Funding	9 months – 4 years	Up to 30 hours per week (term time, 38 weeks per year) or 22h per week (Full Year Care, 51 weeks per year).	Working parents meeting minimum income requirements.	Free Childcare for Working Parents: Check if you're eligible - GOV.UK
2-Year-Old Funding	2 years	15 hours per week (term time, 38 weeks per year) or 11h per week (Full Year Care, 51 weeks per year).	2-year-olds if you get extra support or non-UK citizen who cannot claim benefits (income requirements).	Help paying for childcare: Free education and childcare for 2 year olds if you get extra support - GOV.UK Early years - Apply for funded early education place for two year olds (No recourse to public funds)
Universal 3- & 4-Year-Old Funding	3 & 4 years	15 hours per week (term time, 38 weeks per year) or 11h per week (Full Year Care, 51 weeks per year).	All families regardless of Immigration Status.	Help paying for childcare: 15 hours free childcare for 3 and 4-year-olds - GOV.UK
Tax-Free Childcare (TFC)	0–11 years (17 if disabled)	For every £8 you pay into the account, the government will top it up by £2. The total top up you can get for each child is £500 every 3 months (up to £2,000 per year per child).	Working parents within income limits.	Tax-Free Childcare: What Tax-Free Childcare is - GOV.UK

Funding Option	Funded Hours Per Week	Balanced Nutrition (£1.30/hr)	Enhanced Learning & Care Essentials (£1.00/hr)	Total Weekly Contribution
30 Hours – Term-Time Working Parents	30.00 hours	£39.00	£30.00	£69.00
30 Hours – Term-Time Working Parents	15.00 hours	£19.50	£15.00	£34.50
11.17 Hours – Stretched Working Parents	11.17 hours	£14.30	£11.00	£25.30
22.34 Hours – Stretched Universal Funding	22.34 hours	£28.60	£22.00	£50.60

The Care Essentials contribution is divided into two parts: **Balanced Nutrition** and **Enhanced Learning & Care Essentials**. Balanced Nutrition covers freshly prepared meals, snacks, hydration, and dietary support, while Enhanced Learning & Care Essentials includes educational programmes, welfare essentials, wellbeing resources, enrichment activities, events, and additional family support services.

These contributions allow us to provide consistent, high-quality care and enriching experiences for every child across the nursery. By ensuring all children have access to the same opportunities, resources, and support regardless of their funding option, we avoid creating different “layers” of provision and maintain an inclusive environment for all families.

Families who do not wish to access these additional services and contributions may choose a fully funded place only. Please ask to see our “Funded-Only” Policy for further information.