

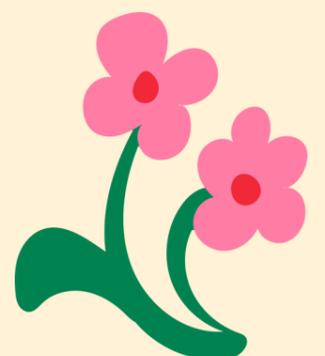


Whether you're new to our nurseries or already part of the family, there are a few different ways to help fund your childcare. It can be tricky to get to grips with all the ins and outs, so we've put together this handy pack to guide you through.



# Welcome to Home From Home

From explaining the government's early years funding schemes in England, to covering of those essential daily costs that create our unique Home From Home experience, we'll help you work out all the fees and funding. Once that's sorted, we can all focus on the most important thing: taking care of your child



# Government Funding explained

Understanding childcare funding isn't always easy, but the good news is we're here to help. In England, there are two government funding programmes that can help your child join in with the exciting adventures and educational fun here at Home From Home, for less. In simple terms, you can make the most of either 15 or 30 funded hours per week, depending on your circumstances.

## Here's how it all works:

### Working family funded childcare

This scheme is for qualifying working parents, the amount of hours available and age at which you can access this funding is changing.

- Current – Families can receive 30 hours of funded childcare for children 3+
- Current – Families can receive 15 hours of funded childcare for children 9 months+
- September 2025 – Families can receive 30 hours of funded childcare for children 9 months +

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 can 'stretch' these hours for you. When you are eligible for 30 hours, you can access up to 22.35 funded hours per week, across 51 weeks.

We can offer your child more than 30 hours per week, if you need them. There are some other specific things that can affect your eligibility, like your immigration status, where your child lives, and your child's exact age. You can read more about this on the government-website:

[childcarechoices.gov.uk/](https://childcarechoices.gov.uk/)

### Universal funded childcare for 3 year olds

This funding goes towards 15 hours of childcare across 38 weeks of term time. All parents of 3 and 4 year olds can access this scheme.

#### Here's what you need to know:

- All 3 and 4 year olds qualify for this scheme.
- At Home From Home, we can 'stretch' these hours over the whole year for more flexibility. How we do this varies between our nurseries, as it depends on how many weeks a particular nursery can stretch the funding for, but most of our parents access around 11.17 funded hours per week over 51 weeks.

Our team can advise what stretch applies at your child's nursery.

- Our parents usually need their child to spend longer in nursery than funding allows, but that's no problem. We offer additional, non-funded hours to fit in with your schedule

- You might be eligible for 15 hours' funded childcare at the same time as other government schemes or incentives. To find out more, visit [gov.uk/browse/benefits](https://gov.uk/browse/benefits)

#### Good to know

While the amount of government funding given to settings doesn't always cover the full cost of your child's hours or the essentials and extras we just wouldn't be able to offer Home From Home without. So, we ask you to pay a voluntary contribution towards these costs alongside your funded hours. We've explained in more detail further on.



# Let's take a look at the government funding offer

<b>September 2025 entitlement</b>		<b>9 months to 2 years</b>	<b>3-4 years</b>
	<b>All Parents</b>		15
	<b>Working families</b>	30	+15
	<b>Families with special circumstance</b>	15	

<b>Eligible alongside Government schemes?</b>	Yes, some. Visit <a href="http://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/childcare-early-years-education">www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/childcare-early-years-education</a> for more information
<b>Are these hours free?</b>	You're not charged for funded hours, but you will be charged for your additional hours and all of the essentials and extras that make a day at Home From Home so special.
<b>How can I get more out of my hours?</b>	At Home From Home we 'stretch' the hours across the year, typically over 51 weeks. This works out to around 11.17hours per week for 15 hours' funding and up to 22.35 hours per week for 30 hours' funding. Some of our nurseries offer term time only spaces T&C's apply.

## Where to get help?

Talk to us: speak to your nursery manager— they'll explain how the funding could apply to you and how stretching it works. Check the government website: if you're struggling to make sense of eligibility, or want to find out about government schemes and incentives, visit [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) and follow the relevant links.



# Our Fee's

While the government funding is a great help towards childcare fees, it only covers a limited number of hours and doesn't pay for all the essentials and extras that make us such a special place. To help us give your child the best start in life, we'll ask you to contribute towards the costs for these along with the rest of your hours.

## What to expect

Our Fee policy shows how your childcare is covered depending on the number of funded hours, and explains what you'll need to pay. You'll see:



### Funded hours

15 hours or 30 hours, which are allocated per session, per full day or per week.



### Non-funded hours

Additional hours that cover the rest of your child's time in nursery.



### Combined fees

This is how much you'll pay for that week, session or day in total.



### Hourly rate for essentials and extras

All the costs that aren't funded by the government's contribution.

## Non-Funded and stretched funding

As I am sure we can all agree the one thing most of us require is 'more time'. Juggling work, children and day-to-day life isn't easy, and we want to help our families wherever we can. We divide your 15 or 30 hours' funding across the year stretching those hours. Here are some options to think about, to help you get the childcare you need:

### Non-funded hours

Just as an example, say you used 15 hours' funding across five days during term time. That would give you three funded hours each day, which means your mornings would only be partially funded, and wouldn't quite cover the length of a session. So we stretch your funding out over the 51 weeks the nursery is open this then allows for 1 full day funded year round. Non-funded hours are charged at our standard rate, which covers absolutely everything your child will need each day for the very best care. Each nursery is a little different so speak to the nursery manager to find out more.

### Stretched hours

Remember: whether it's 30 or 15 hours, that number only applies to the 38 weeks in term time. This is why we choose to 'stretch' the 15 or 30 funded hours across the whole year. Usually parents can 'stretch' their 15 hours and receive up to 11.17 hours per week, while those with 30 hours could have up to 22.35 hours per week. By stretching your hours over 51 weeks, this helps your child to get into a routine. They will attend nursery every week of the year.

While of course your child is our tip top priority, we're here to make your life easier too. We offer extended hours for your convenience. Ask us how to make your childcare work around your schedule. It's just another way we support our families

All funding options Every term, we'll need you to sign our funding terms and conditions and complete a local authority Parental Declaration form. We can then carry on claiming funding for your child's place at nursery.



# What Do we do differently to others

## Toiletries

We do all we can to keep your child feeling clean and comfortable, and can also work with you to support them with potty training, building their confidence and independence.

## Meals, drinks and snacks

Our catering company 'Zebedee's' prepare healthy, delicious, accredited food every single day, along with lots of fresh, nutritious snacks.

## School ready programme

We know how important it is to feel prepared for that next step, so we help to build every child's skills and confidence to make the transition to school life simpler.

## Enhancements and activities

We offer fun, exciting and educational experiences for your child to teach them essential life skills. Our specialist teams create opportunities for your child to build their learning and development in every area, including physical, personal and social, as well as skills in language and communication.

We also enjoy outings exploring the local community. Above the expectations of the EYFS expectations

Of course, these are just some of the things that make us special. At our nurseries, your child will also benefit from a National Curriculum-based education following the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) framework, along with the exceptional training, expertise, and specialist support of our amazing team.

## Our parents also benefit from



### Learning Journey

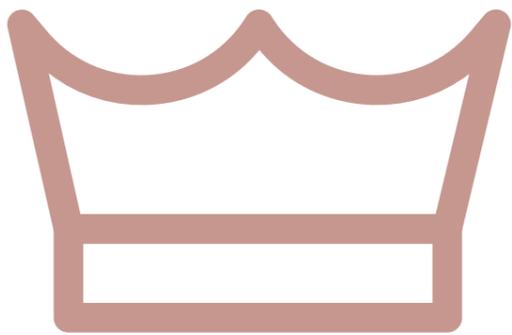
The interactive learning journey our online learning journal We track and measure your child's progress and all they get up to at our special nurseries. It's a way for parents to feel involved in their child's experience and to share in their child's day-to-day life.



### Dedicated Team

Typically, we have one brilliant member of staff for every eight children in our pre-school room (1:8), compared to 1:13 in some schools. 1:4 instead of 1:5 for our 2-year-old room and 1:1 for all under 12 months rather than 1:3. This means there's much more one-to-one time with your child, which is great for their development

ALL IN



£12 A day



**Government funding covers core care hours but excludes meals, consumables, extra hours, and trips. It's important to note that government funding is not intended to cover the full cost of childcare.**

At Home From Home, we offer an optional charge per funded session called our ALL-IN package, ensuring your child has everything they need for a comfortable and enriching day with us.

What's Included?

- ✓ Daily Essentials – Nappy cream and sun cream.
- ✓ Healthy Nutrition – Balanced meals, snacks, and milk.
- ✓ Formula – Provided for babies under 12 months old.
- ✓ Clubs - Extra-curricular clubs running weekly.
- ✓ Outings - Children get to explore the local community.
- ✓ Events – We offer lots of parent events and celebrations through the year.

This charge is completely optional. Parents who choose to opt out just need to provide all necessary items themselves in line with our policies.

This ensures complete flexibility while maintaining the highest standards of care for every child. Private paying parents have all this included in their fee as standard.

#### Thinking of opting out?

If you are considering opting out of our 'All in' package, please first discuss your decision with the Nursery Manager. They will explain the process and provide you with the relevant policy information. Please note that we require at least one calendar month's notice to process your request. This allows us to update our records, adjust invoices, and ensure the nursery is fully prepared for any changes related to your child's care. If you choose to provide your own items before the notice period expires, the relevant charges will still apply. Home From Home has always offered, and will continue to offer, sessions 1 to 4 completely free of charge. These sessions do not include food or additional services and therefore carry no cost, with no requirement to provide your own.

# Applying for funding

How and when you need to apply for your childcare funding depends on your child's age, the scheme and some other factors. We've broken it down for you below. When to apply You might be wondering when your child will be able to use the 15 and 30 hours of government funding. It's all down to when their birthday falls, so make sure you plan ahead. For Working Family Funding, you'll need to apply online for an eligibility code.

When your child is 9 months old	When you can get your hours from	Deadline for applying
Between the 1 <sup>st</sup> of September & 31 <sup>st</sup> Decemebr	1 <sup>st</sup> January	31 <sup>st</sup> December
Between 1 <sup>st</sup> January & 31 <sup>st</sup> March	1 <sup>st</sup> April	31 <sup>st</sup> March
Between 1 <sup>st</sup> April & 31 <sup>st</sup> August	1 <sup>st</sup> September	31 <sup>st</sup> August



## REMINDER!

You should be applying for your eligibility code for funding 3 months before you wish to access it. But remember you cannot apply for your code and use it in the same term.

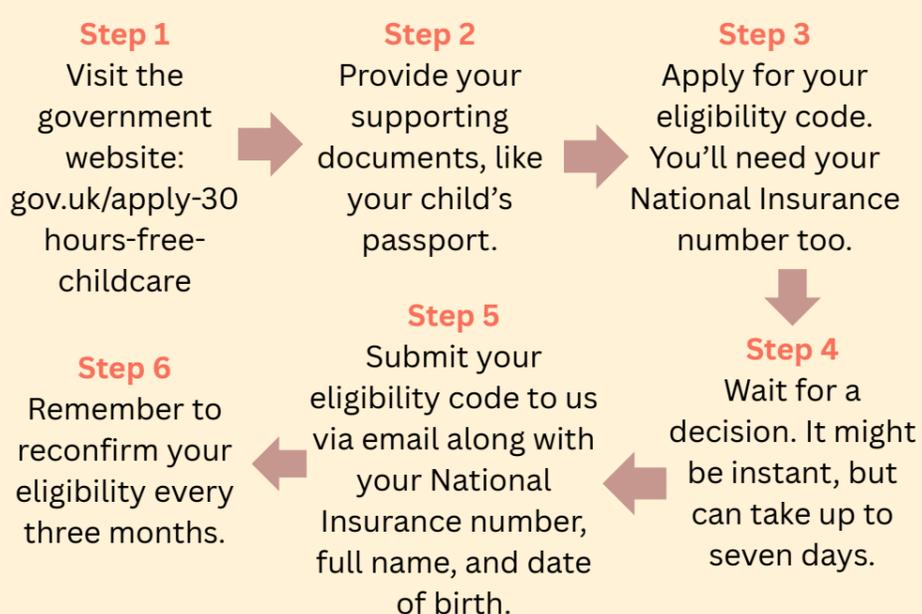


**Don't forget!** Every three months, sign into your HMRC childcare account to reconfirm your working family funding eligibility code. If you forget, you might lose your funding for the following term, which means you'll have to pay our standard fee for any time that isn't covered by the basic \*15 hours scheme.

## How to apply

### Universal funded childcare for 3 and 4 year olds.

For 3 and 4 year olds, all you have to do is get in touch with your nearest Home From Home nursery. Our lovely team will talk you through the process and ask to see your child's birth certificate or passport as proof of your eligibility. It's as simple as that! For eligible 2 year olds already in receipt of government support, you must get written confirmation from your local authority first. Then, just show it to the manager of your chosen nursery and if eligible, your funding will start the term following application. Working family funded childcare The process is a little more complicated for the working family funding, and takes around 20 minutes – so make sure you have time set aside to do it properly.



## Good to know

- If you're separated from your partner, you'll need to decide between you who should apply, unless only you have parental responsibility.
- For working family funded childcare, HMRC will usually send you reminders about when to reconfirm, but it's a good idea to set up a reminder yourself. That way, you won't miss out on this extra bit of help towards the cost of childcare

## Effective From April 2026

*opening hours vary on setting	Start	End	0-3 years	3-5years
Full week Monday to Friday	7:30/8:00 am	6:00/6:30 pm		
Full Day	7:30/8:00 am	6:00/6:30 pm	Molesey £98.00 Woking £98.00 Walton £98.00 New Haw £98.00	Molesey £95.00 Woking £95.00 Walton £95.00 New Haw £95.00
Morning	8:00 am	1:00pm	Walton £60.50 New Haw £60.50	Walton £58.50 New Haw £58.50
Afternoon	1:00 pm	6:00pm	Walton £60.50 New Haw £60.50	Walton £58.50 New Haw £58.50

# How That Looks

Now you have an overview of government funding and fees, let's take a look at how it all works together. See below our most popular scenario to give you a clearer idea of how funding at Home From Home might work for you.

\*These figures are used as an example to demonstrate how funding works only. Price of non-funded hours and food & consumables may vary per nursery.



**Full-time place (Stretching funding x 51 weeks)**  
**Over 5 days 8.00 am - 6.00 pm**  
**£1253.62pcm**



Funded hours 22.35hrs - No cost to parents



Non-funded hours 27.65 hrs - Chargeable according to the rate of the session (in this case the full-time rate)



We offer an optional 'All-In Package', ensuring your child has everything they need for a comfortable and enriching day with us. Charged per funded session. Charges may vary slightly between our nurseries.



### **Does Home From home offer totally free places?**

Yes, although we prefer to call these 'funded', not 'free'. All our settings offer funded places where parents can access their funded hours without any additional charges. Many families, however, still choose our 'All-In' package, which offers excellent value and convenience.

### **How many hours will my child be funded each day?**

In short, it depends on the settings opening hours, the number of funded hours you have, and how often your child is in nursery.

Funded sessions are capped at ten hours per day by the government, and in line with these guidelines, we are only able to fund a maximum of 10 hours per day. We also don't offer childcare by the hour. As a parent, each month you'll be sent a monthly invoice, which shows your child's funded hours as well as any chargeable non-funded hours and the fee for food and consumables. So, it'll always be clear how many funded hours have been used each day.

### **If I pay for extra hours and don't use them, can I be refunded?**

Unfortunately, not. We must make sure we cover all our running and team costs to provide high quality care for every child.

### **Can I roll over my funded hours into the next term?**

Sorry, due to restrictions by various local authorities we can't roll over your hours, but we can stretch your child's funding instead. Please speak to the nursery manager to find out more.

### **Nurseries in my area allow parents to send in packed lunches.**

#### **Does Home From Home?**

At Home From Home, we're proud to work with **Zebedees** one of the UK's leading nursery catering companies, they provide delicious, nutrient-rich, balanced nursery meals, to help children enjoy every day to the fullest. By maintaining this approach, we can create a safe, inclusive, and enriching mealtime environment that supports children's well-being and development. If you choose to opt out of our 'All-In' package, we regret to inform you that we cannot allow pack lunches and only home-prepared hot meals will be permitted. This decision has been made after careful consideration and is based on several important factors:

- Nutritional Consistency – Ensuring all children have access to well-balanced meals that meet high nutritional standards. Packed lunches, while convenient, can vary greatly and are often higher in fats, salt, and sugars.
- Independence & Learning – Mealtimes provide essential learning opportunities, such as using cutlery effectively, which supports fine motor skill development.
- Food Safety – Hot meals undergo a reheating process to above 75°C, which helps reduce harmful bacteria to safer levels for safer consumption.

In contrast, packed lunches pose a higher risk due to being stored out of the fridge

### **I've missed the deadline to apply for my Eligibility Code. Can my child still be funded?**

Codes only provide funding in the term after you apply, so if you miss the deadline (on the last day of March, August and December), we will not be able to access the funded hours until next term. If your child is 3 or above then you're still eligible for 15 hours, because it's available to all children, regardless of whether parents are working. HMRC might prompt you to reconfirm your code before the start of the new term, so please remember to do this to stay eligible. When you have your code, please submit this to us via email and we'll check it's valid with the local authority and confirm your child's place.

### **I'm planning to take my child on holiday. How will this affect my funded childcare?**

If you're planning on being away for under two weeks, generally this is fine, but the more notice you can provide, the better. If it's likely to be longer than this, talk to the team at your child's nursery. They will need to check with the local authority about whether funding can continue.

### **What should I do if I need to change how long my child attends nursery?**

We ask for two month's notice, however if this applies to funded childcare, then speak to the team at your child's nursery. Some changes may affect your child's funding claim and depending on the hours involved or when the changes are asked for, they may not be allowed by your local authority until the start of a new term.

### **Can I get Tax-Free Childcare (TFC)?**

The rules for TFC are similar to those of the 30 hours funding, for example you (and your partner) need to be working and earning more than national minimum wage but less than £100,000 a year. You open an online account through the government website which you use to pay for your childcare. For every 80p you pay in, the government will top up an extra 20p.

- So, for every pound you pay for your childcare, you're getting a 20% contribution from the government: this is equivalent of the tax most people pay - 20% - which is how the scheme got its name.
- The government will top up the account with 20% of childcare costs up to a total of £10,000 - the equivalent of up to £2,000 support per child, per year (or £4,000 for disabled children).
- The scheme covers all your children, including adopted children, provided they live with you and are under the age of 12 years, (or 17 for children with disabilities) Check your eligibility at <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>