

Fees and Funding at Little Monkeys from April 2024

Universal entitlement

All 3 and 4 year olds are eligible for 15 hours a week free early education for 38 weeks of the year (570 hours per year). This can be 'stretched' across the year using 11.25 hours per week for 51 weeks of the year. You do not need a code to apply for universal entitlement but will need to sign a termly funding form.

Extended/30 hours entitlement

Some 3 and 4 year olds may be entitled to an additional entitlement of a further 15 hours per week for the 38 weeks of the year. The 15 extended hours in conjunction with the 15 universal hours will give you 30 hours of funding (1140 hours per year) for 38 weeks of the year or can be 'stretched' to 22.5 hours a week for 51 weeks of the year. You need to get a 'funding' code to show your eligibility to apply for universal funding and will need to sign a termly funding form.

Working family two-year funding (New from April 24)

From April 1st, 2024, you may be eligible for 15 hours funding for your 2-year-old. This again is for only 38 weeks of the year (570 hours per year) and can be 'stretched' to 11.25 hours to cover 51 weeks of the year. You will need to get an eligibility code to apply for working family funding.

Am I eligible.

- You, and any partner, must each expect to earn (on average) at least £167 per week (equal to 16 hours at the National Minimum or Living Wage).
- If you, or your partner, are on maternity, paternity or adoption leave, or you're unable to work because you are disabled or have caring responsibilities, you could still be eligible.
- You **can't** get either working family two-year funding or 30 hours childcare if you, or your partner, each **individually** expect to earn £100,000 adjusted net income or more.
- Eligible working families of 3 and 4 years olds can get up to 30 hours childcare per week maximum (this includes 15 hours universal entitlement and 15 hours extended entitlement)

When will my child become eligible for funding?

Your child will become eligible for the funding at the start of the school term after their 2nd or 3rd birthday.

Date of birthday range

1 April - 31 August

1 September - 31 December

1 January - 31 March

Earliest entitlement starts from

September

January

April

How do I check my eligibility and get a code?

- Eligibility will be checked by HMRC via the government's Childcare Choices website and will be based on actual income earned.
- You can check your eligibility and/ or apply for the 30-hours free childcare entitlement and the working family two year funding by visiting the Childcare Choices website at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk
- If you are eligible, you will be given an 11-digit code which you will need to bring to us along with your national insurance number and your child's birth certificate. We will then use the government's eligibility checking system to check that your code is valid and confirm you have a valid funding place with us. Please do this in a timely way.
- You will need to reconfirm your eligibility every 3 months and HMRC will send you a reminder to do so, this is very important as they will remove the funding if the code is not re confirmed. The nursery holds no responsibility for codes not reconfirmed by the parents or any other issues by HMRC and if this happens, full nursery fees will be charged to parents.

- You must have your 30-hours/ working family two year funding eligibility code before the start of the term your child becomes eligible, or you will not be able to access the funding until the following term. So you need your code by August, December and March. **Parents are advised to apply in plenty of time e.g. by July, November and February.**
- A funding form needs to be completed each year and resigned each term. The forms are complicated (not my form!), I am happy to help you through them. The forms then stay with Little Monkeys, and we duplicate the info on a online portal. All types of funding need to complete a funding form.

What happens if I become ineligible for the offer, for example, because I lose my job?

If you no longer meet the eligibility criteria, your child's 30-hours/working family funding place will continue to be funded for a 'grace period'. You should discuss this with us if needed.

Will I have to pay for anything?

- Government funding is intended to deliver 15 or 30 hours a week of free, high quality, flexible childcare. It is not intended to cover the costs of meals, other consumables, additional hours, or additional service.
- We will continue to provide nappies, wipes and suncream for all our children both funded and non-funded children. Parents who require a certain nappy/wet wipe/suncream type will be expected to supply their own.
- Children who are funded will be charged additionally for food whilst using their funded hours/additional funding hours, any additional hours they spend with us outside of their funding, late fees and any trips or additional activities like Little Wild things will also be charged.
- Children joining using funded sessions only will not be charged a registration fee and we will be adjusting our settling in policy accordingly.
- Children will be expected to ideally purchase a book bag, if this causes economic issues a book bag can be borrowed.
- Children who receive two-year funding (please don't confuse with working families two-year funding) /children who receive Early years pupil premium will pay no additional fees for food whilst attending for 'free' hours.

Term time only or full year nursery place?

If your child attends little monkeys on a term time only placement, we will deduct your funding during their normal term dates/38 weeks of the year. If you need any sessions outside of your normal term time only placement, you will be charged the normal session rate.

If you are on a full year placement, we will 'stretch' your funding which allows you to use less hours a week over a longer time, this allows you to cover the 51 weeks we are open and ensures your funding is spread across the year, avoiding larger invoices during non-funded weeks.

In addition, you may use two different providers each day to meet the needs of you and your child, but no more than 10 hours can be claimed in any one day.

Other funding

Two-year funding (not to be confused with working families two-year funding)

Some two-year-olds are eligible for 15 hours entitlement, even if they are not entitled to working families two-year funding. Your two-year-old can get funding if you get one of the following benefits:

- income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

- Universal Credit - if you and your partner have a combined income from work of less than £15,400 a year after tax credits and you have a household annual income of under £16,190 before tax.
- 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)

A child can also get free early education and childcare if any of the following apply:

- they're looked after by a local council.
- they have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- they get Disability Living Allowance
- they've left care under a special guardianship order, child arrangements order or adoption order

A child can also get free early education funding if you're a non-UK citizen who cannot claim benefits.

If your immigration status says you have 'no recourse to public funds', you may still get free childcare for your 2-year-old.

Early years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

The nursery may be entitled to up to £342 per year of funding to support your 3- and 4-year-old child's development, learning and care. The Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) provides extra funding for 3- and 4-year-old children whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits or children who have been in care or adopted from care.

3- and 4-year-olds in state-funded early education will attract EYPP funding if they meet at least 1 of the following criteria. If your family gets one of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided they're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on, which is paid for 4 weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit (provided they have an annual net earned income equivalent to and not exceeding £7,400, assessed on up to three of the parent's most recent Universal Credit assessment periods)
- Or the child has been in local-authority care for 1 day or more in England or Wales
- Or the child has been adopted from care in England or Wales
- Or the child has left care under a special guardianship order or residence order in England or Wales

Session timings

Normal sessions will remain as follows.

Session name	Timings
Full day	8am to 6pm
Short day	8am to 3pm
Am session	8am to 1.30pm
Pm session	2pm to 6pm.

Funded sessions will be as follows, giving more choice and flexibility:

Session name	Timings
8 to 6 funding	8am to 6pm

8 to 5 funding	8am to 5pm
9 to 6 funding	9am to 6pm
9 to 5 funding	9am to 5pm
8 to 1.30 funding	8am to 1.30pm
8 to 3	8am to 3pm funding
9 to 3	9am to 3pm funding
2 to 6	2pm to 6pm.

As we are offering further flexible opportunities for funding, we must stress that parents must collect/drop off within their times. We will be charging late/early drop off fees for children dropped off before or collected after their session times, these will automatically be applied to your invoice and we will need to be strict with you about this. Early drops off/late collections outside of your nursery session will be charged at £5 per 15 minutes or part there of.

Session fees

There will be an increase in nursery fees from April 1st, 2024. This is to consider funding formulas and large increases in running the nursery.

When a child becomes eligible for a change in session price, this will happen from the 1st of the month after the child's second birthday.

Session name	Timings	Cost for under 2's	Cost for over 2's
Full day	8am to 6pm	£66.00	£65.00
Short day	8am to 3pm	£50.75	£48.25
Am session	8am to 1.30pm	£44.95	£42.95
Pm session	2pm to 6pm.	£35.25	£34.25

Other fees

7.30 drop off	Extra session from 7.30(This is outside of nursery hours).	£7.75
Hourly rate	One off extra hour (outside of a normal session).	£9.40
Out of hours late collection/early drop off	Any drop off or late collections outside of nursery hours which aren't arranged.	£5 per 15 minutes or part there off.
Book bag		£7.50

Funding fees including food etc

Funding hourly rate (to be used on days with funding when there is a shortfall of funding hours)	£8.25
Funded food – full day (includes breakfast, cooked lunch, cold tea and 2 snacks)	£8.50
Funded food – short day (includes breakfast, cooked lunch and 2 snacks)	£7.25
Funded food – Am (includes breakfast, cooked lunch and snack)	£6.75
Funded food – PM (includes snack and cold tea)	£4.75

Payment of fees.

As more and more parents will be entitled to funding as more funding is available throughout the coming months, we must be more mindful in collecting the fees that aren't funding. The funding is paid to nursery's as 60% of the estimated amount due for the term at the end of the first month of the term, with the following 40% paid/balance at the beginning of the third month of the term. We must ensure we collect fees promptly to ensure our cash flow isn't affected and will be charging parents who pay late in line with our terms and conditions.

"The nursery reserves the right to charge a late fee of £10 per day for fees not paid by the 1st of the month. Invoices will be sent out for the 1st of the month and there is a grace period until the 5th of the month. A reminder will be sent for any fees outstanding on the 5th of the month and we will begin to charge late fees for fees not paid by the 6th of the month".

"Parents whose account is in arrears will not be able to book any additional sessions until their account is clear".

Revision of fees

As this is huge reforms to the role out of funded childcare with significant changes, we will be reviewing all our fees structures twice yearly in March ready for changes in April and August ready for changes in September. This way we can ensure the ongoing future of the nursery.

Calculating fees

It can be tricky to know what is best when using your funding and how to allocate it. Its usually best to try and cover a whole session with funding and sometimes if you only have 1 or 2 hours of funding left its often better to not claim it and to pay the 'normal session rate' as it can work out cheaper. I will always try and find the most economical way for you to use your funding and I am happy to work out a costing for you if needed!

Changing of sessions and extra sessions

One months' notice must be received for changes of session and leaving the nursery.

It is trickier to change sessions mid-way through a term for funding children as there are dates funding needs to be applied for etc, so please be open and honest with us so we can help and advice.

Extra sessions and additional times etc will be charged at the normal session rate.

Future Funding

- From September 2024 all children from 9 months will be entitled to 15 hours of funding under the working families funding.
- From September 2025 all children from 9 months will be entitled to 30 hours of funding under the working families funding.

We presume these will be an extension of the role out of the working families funding from April 2024, but will keep you posted of any changes bought in as we know them.