



# Funding Policy

THE NEST

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# Funding Policy at The Nest

Both The Family Nest and The Pheasant Nest have a range of options to support families financially and help them access quality early years education and care.

## Early Years Education (EYE) Funding Overview

EYE Funding is a government initiative, administered by local authorities, that provides funded childcare hours with Ofsted-registered providers. The number of funded hours available depends on the child's age and family circumstances. Providers have flexibility in if, and how, they offer this funding, provided they adhere to the following statutory guidelines below:

- \* Funded sessions cannot exceed 10 hours in a single day.
- \* Funded hours must be used between 6:00 am and 8:00 pm.
- \* Funded childcare is limited to a maximum of two settings per day.

## How The Nest Supports Families with EYE Funding

At The Nest, we aim to help families maximise their funding entitlement by not restricting the hours families are able to use for their funding, within the statutory guidelines above.

## Stretched Funding Model

As a year-round provider (open 48 weeks per year), we offer what is termed a 'stretched funding model', distributing the available hours across 48 weeks instead of limiting them to the Government's scheme based on 38 term-time weeks, providing greater flexibility for year-round working families.

- \* 15 hours per week over 38 weeks (570 hours annually) becomes 11.875 hours per week over our 48 weeks.
- \* 30 hours per week over 38 weeks (1,140 hours annually) becomes 23.75 hours per week over our 48 weeks.

## Types of EYE Funding

- Universal Funding: For all 3 & 4 year-olds (11.875hr/week)
- Working Families Entitlement: For eligible working parents of children aged 9 months to 4 years (23.75hrs/week)
- Supported Two-Year-Old Funding: For eligible families
- Disability Access Funding (DAF) and Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP): Additional support for children with SEND or economic disadvantage

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## Funding Allocation

- Funded hours are available in 10-hour blocks starting from The Nest opening time.
- If a parent books two full days with 11.875 funded hours, the remaining 1.875 hours are allocated to the second day.
- If a parent books three full days with 23.75 funded hours, the remaining 3.75 hours are allocated to the third day.

## The Nest Enhanced Offer and Additional Charges

The Government EYE Funding is built and designed to deliver the **basic** 'Statutory EYFS requirements' only for children and their families. This results in an unjust and untenable playing field for providers like us, who are striving to deliver something far **beyond** the basic requirements. Everything The Nest stands for and believes in **exceeds** these standards, and the entire Nest Team work incredibly hard to ensure these standards are attained, whilst retaining a true value proposition with as much flexibility as possible for our families.

The Government, through the Local Authority, only pays us a proportion of our hourly rate, leaving what is in essence, a 'funding gap'. This is a serious nationwide concern throughout the industry.

To bridge some of this gap, we request a non-mandatory '**Consumables and Peripatetic Teaching**' fee of £3.25 per funded hour. This fee supports us to deliver our high standards, far surpassing those covered by the government funding which only delivers 'Basic EYFS Requirements'. If this fee is not met, the reality for us as a provider, is we will be forced to review our funding offer all together. It is only by working together that we can deliver the market leading high standards we strive for at The Nest and we appreciate your support in this area.

Our 'Peripatetic teaching and consumables fees' are used for some of the following, but not exclusively:

- Highly qualified staff (including several QTS Teachers) delivering bespoke educational programmes.
- Lower staffing ratios than EYFS requirements state.
  - To enable more personalised care for each individual baby and child and their family.
  - To cater for more flexible booking patterns and extra hours as and when families need it.
- Seasonal events and resources.
- Suncream, nappy cream.

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- Trips out (inc. TPN, library, parks and museums), no additional costs for: entry fees for your child or staff accompanying your child, transportation either by The Nest vans or public transport, increased staff ratios or for any consumables whilst on trip.
- Cooking and baking activities.
- All bedding (inc. blankets and sheets at TPN and sleeping bags and sheets at TFN).
- In house laundry service for weekly bedding washes and daily face flannels and towels, bibs and aprons etc.
- Sterilising facilities at both settings.
- Toothbrushing equipment.

### Meal costs

Please see the website for the current meal costs, which are a non-mandatory addition to your childcare costs. As you are aware, food offerings at The Nests are one of our core strengths. We take a great deal of time and effort to ensure all meals provide babies and children with an extremely high nutritional value, whilst at the same time exposing them to different tastes, textures and culinary experiences. Each of the dishes on our greatly varied menu are planned, prepared and served with a great deal of consideration and go far beyond complying with the 'Early Years Foundation Stage Nutrition Guidance' Document May '25.

### Check Eligibility

For more information on eligibility criteria, to check your eligibility and to apply for childcare funding, please visit the government's funding site: <https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk> (used to be 'childcare choices'), and follow links to 'Childcare and Early Years Education'.

Eligible parents will need to obtain their child's 11-digit eligibility code (see above) which will then be validated when completing the parent declaration process (see below). Parents need to re-validate their child's code every three months - reminders will be sent to parents direct from HMRC. Please ensure these are validated without delay to avoid funding being refused by county when we make our head count submissions.

### Parent Declaration Form

Once parents ascertain their eligibility, a parent declaration form will need to be completed, and again resubmitted each funding period, as required by local authorities. If this form is not submitted, funding cannot be claimed and full fees will apply. To streamline this process, The Nest have partnered with '**Funding Loop**', a third-party administrative portal, to capture this information and help manage the process. Please email [admin@thenest-childcare.com](mailto:admin@thenest-childcare.com) to get things set up for you on Funding Loop.

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## Required Documentation

- Supported Two-Year-Old Funding: Birth certificate or passport (for DOB proof) **and** proof of eligibility (eligibility code)
- Universal Funding: Birth certificate or passport (for DOB proof)
- Working Families Funding: Birth certificate or passport (for DOB proof) eligibility code, parent's full names, dates of birth, and both parents' NI numbers.

## Child Absences

Local authorities may reclaim funding for prolonged absences. Parents are responsible for covering any reclaimed amounts.

## Booking Patterns

Parents must confirm any requests for changes to regular booking patterns to The Nest via e-mail **before** the start of each funding period (see below for dates) in order for us to successfully claim your child's funding.

Ad-hoc bookings or extra hours beyond your regular booking pattern are not eligible for funded hours unless part of an agreed pattern.

## Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND) Funding

SEND funding is provided directly to The Nest settings to support children with additional needs. This funding is used to provide specialist resources and support, ensuring every child can access quality early education.

## Disability Access Funding (DAF)

DAF is available to children receiving Disability Living Allowance. It is a one-time annual payment used to make necessary adjustments for equal access. Resources purchased with DAF remain the property of The Nest.

## Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

EYPP is additional funding for eligible children to support improved outcomes. It is paid directly to the setting and used for developmental support of those children.

## Deprivation Funding

Deprivation Funding is available for children in certain postcodes or those receiving specific types of early years funding and is used to close attainment gaps within the setting.

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## Funding Loop

Funding Loop is a guided, third-party, administrative portal with a hassle-free process for managing your child's funding forms. We work closely with them as a partner, to ensure that the funding process is streamlined and secure. More details can be found at : <https://www.fundingloop.co.uk/home>

If your child splits their time between both settings, please note:

- If funding is fully absorbed at one Nest, you will only have to complete one parent declaration for that setting. Hours shown within this declaration will only relate to that specific Nest.
- If funding is **split between Nests**, you will be required to complete 2 separate parent declarations. Within these declarations you will need to state that the **funding is being shared with another setting**.

## Funding Periods

All funding entitlement commences the period **after** the child reaches the funded age. Funding periods are 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March (Spring), 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> August (summer) and 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> December (autumn).

## Funding Start Dates for 9-month-old Children

<b>When your child turns 9 months old</b>	<b>When you can get your hours from</b>	<b>Deadline for applying</b>
<b>Between 1 September and 31 December</b>	1 January	31 December
<b>Between 1 January and 31 March</b>	1 April	31 March
<b>Between 1 April and 31 August</b>	1 September	31 August

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## Government Tax Free Childcare Scheme

In addition to accepting EYE Funding, we also welcome the use of the Government tax-free childcare scheme. Details of how to use this, and who may be eligible can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>.

Once you login, you will need to search for us as a provider. To find us, please use the following details for each of our settings:

**The Family Nest (search using the following '2852845 SO226DT')**  
**4 Westman Road**  
**Winchester**  
**Hampshire**  
**SO22 6DT**

**URN - 2852845**

**The Pheasant Nest**  
**Manor Farm**  
**Newton Stacey**  
**Stockbridge**  
**Hampshire**  
**SO20 6BP**

**URN - 2871006**

## Other Tax-Free Childcare Schemes

There may be other schemes we can help with and so please do ask us. We are currently working with 'Workplace Nursery Provision', a tax relief scheme which we can provide more details on should you wish.

<https://www.workplace-nursery.net/workplace-nursery-benefits-for-parents/>