



Funding Policy at The Nest

Both Nests offer a comprehensive range of funding options to support families accessing quality early education and care.

Early Years Funding Overview

Early Years Funding is a government initiative, administered by local authorities, that provides funded childcare hours through Ofsted-registered providers. The number of funded hours available depends on the child's age and family circumstances. Providers have flexibility in offering 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 sites per day.

How THE NEST Supports Families with Early Years Funding

At The Nest, we aim to help families maximise their funded childcare hours by not having any restrictions on the hours families are able to use their funding, within the statutory guidelines above.

As a year-round provider, 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 working families.

Stretched Funding Model

- * 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 Early Years 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 (how it appears on Blossom)

* Funded hours are available in 10-hour blocks starting from the setting 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, Essentials and Extras

The Government Early Years Funding is only built and designed to deliver the **basic** 'Statutory EYFS requirements' 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 county, only pays us a proportion of our hourly rate, leaving what is in essence, a 'funding gap'.

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 delivering the standards we strive for, far surpassing those covered by the government funding we receive to deliver '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's 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.

Things our 'Peripatetic teaching and consumables fees' are used for **includes, but is not exclusively:**

- Highly qualified staff (including several QTS Teachers) delivering bespoke educational programmes.
- 'Extra' members of staff daily at both settings to ensure the highest standards of care are possible.
- Seasonal events and resources.
- Suncream, nappy cream.
- 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.
- Lower staffing ratios than requirements state.

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- 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.
- 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.

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 re-validated when completing the parent declaration process below. This code has to be re-validated every three months and reminders will be sent to parents direct from HMRC.

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 recently started using '**Funding Loop**', a third-party portal, to capture this information and help manage the process. Please contact The Nest for this information who will help set things up for you.

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.

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Booking Patterns

Parents must confirm booking patterns to us at The Nest via e-mail **before** the start of each funding period (see below) in order for us to successfully claim the funding. Ad-hoc bookings or extra hours 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.

Funding Loop

Funding Loop is a guided, third-party 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>

Please note, If your child splits their time between both settings, the funding loop documentation will only show the hours where your child has funding in place.

Funding Periods

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

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Funding Start Dates for 9-month-old Children

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

Government Tax Free Childcare

Tax Free Childcare Scheme

In addition to accepting Early Years Finding 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>.

To find us, please use the following details :

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URN - 2734989 - CHANGING SOON WE WILL ADVISE!!!