

Funding Explained – 2026

9 month – 23 months funding

Eligible working families can access up to 30 funded hours per week for 38 weeks of the year, which can be stretched across the year, starting the term after their child turns 9 months old.

To qualify, both parents (or one if a single-parent household) must be working and earning at least £167 per week, but no more than £100,000 each.

2-Year-old Funding

Some families can claim 30 hours of funded childcare per week for 38 weeks of the year, which can be stretched across the year, starting the term after their child turns 2 years old.

There are two types of funding available for 2-year-olds:

1. Income-based funding – For families receiving certain benefits (e.g. Universal Credit). Some families can access 15 hours of funded childcare per week.
2. Working families – Starting April 2024, 30 hours per week can be claimed if both parents work 16+ hours on minimum wage.

3- and 4-Year-Old Funding

All families can claim 15 hours of funded childcare per week, for 38 weeks of the year, which can be stretched across the year, starting the term after their child turns 3. Eligible working families can claim up to 30 hours per week.

To qualify for 30 hours:

Both parents (or one if a single-parent household) must be working and earning at least £167 per week, but no more than £100,000 each.

To find out if you are eligible:

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2025/05/how-to-apply-for-30-hours-free-childcare-and-find-out-if-youre-eligible>

To claim for your free childcare hours, please apply on:

<https://www.gov.uk/sign-in-childcare-account>

You will have to answer a series of questions to check eligibility. Once eligible, you will be provided with a code.

The code will need to be renewed on this site **every three months**, you will receive a reminder about this from Gov.Uk.

At Woodend, we allow parents to use their Childs hours stretched across the year.

We do not offer term time funding.

The sessions we offer are Monday to Friday:

- Full days 7:30am – 6pm (10.5 hours)
- Morning Session 7:30am – 1pm (5.5 hours)
- Afternoon Session 1pm – 6pm (5 hours)

Stretched

Stretched funding allows parents to stretch their funded hours over the year.

38 funded weeks of 30 funded hours gives 22 hours to use each week, during the 51 weeks of the year that nursery is open.

If you are claiming 15 hours of funding, this gives 11 free hours per week to use over the year.

We stretch the funding from the start of academic year (ie From September).

If your child becomes eligible to claim funding mid-year, we will work out how many funded weeks are left in the year and then stretch those hours over the remaining year to August. (Please note, your funding allowance will therefore be lower than 22 or 11 hours per week).

Once the funded hours have been allocated and used, any surplus hours that your child attended are billed at that session's hourly rate.

NURSERY FEES					
		Session Duration	Session Rate	Session rate Per hour	
			£	£	
0-3 year old	7:30am – 1pm Morning Session	5.5 hours	46.00	8.00	
0-3 year old	7:30am – 6pm Full Day	10.5 hours	70.00	6.48	
0-3 year old	1pm – 6pm Afternoon Session	5 hours	45.00	8.60	

Example

Your child attends 3 full days Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, and you want to use the full 30 funded hours stretched (which equates to 22 hours per week covering 51 weeks of the year that nursery is open).

3 full days – 10.5 hours per day = you child attends 31.5 hours per week.

The maximum funded hours that can be offset per day is 10 hours.

Tuesday 10.5 hours attended
 10 funded hours used
 0.5 hour charge at £6.67 per hour

Wednesday 10.5 hours attended
 10 funded hours used
 0.5 hour charge at £6.67 per hour

Friday 10.5 hours attended
 2 hours funded
 8.5 hours charged at £6.67 per hour

Please note, if your child attends only one day a week then you will not be using up all of your available funded hours. $38 \text{ weeks} \times 10 \text{ hours} / 51 \text{ weeks nursery is open} = 7.45 \text{ hours}$ available to offset each week. This is because the maximum claim allowed per government guidelines is 10 hours per day – therefore the 10 hours is stretched over the 51 weeks nursery is open.

Invoicing

The system we use throughout nursery is called Connect Childcare.

All of our monthly invoices are raised from this system.

The system allocates the funded hours available to each child, if there is part of the session not covered by the funded hours, then this is then charged at the sessions hourly rate.

The allocation of funded hours are detailed in each monthly invoice, so you are aware of how your child's funded hours are allocated.

The invoices show the funding claimed under 'Grants' – Extended and Universal.

Please do not hesitate to speak to management if you would like to discuss your invoice.

PLEASE NOTE - Woodend does offer limited funded only places. For more information, please speak to the nursery manager.

Codes

Please remember to renew your extended hour's code when you receive the prompt from GOV.UK. If the code is not renewed in time, you may not receive the 15 extended hours in the next term.