

What is Early Years Funding entitlement?

Funding is available for children 9 months plus, there are different types of funding available depending on the circumstances of each family, they are as follows:

Disadvantage entitlement/Entitlement for families receiving additional support –

Families that are eligible for this funding will be able to receive 15 hours per week Term Time (38 weeks per year). The child becomes eligible the term after their 2nd birthday and the terms commence as follows: 1st September, 1st April or 1st January. Depending on the LA it may be possible to join midterm, this should be discussed with your nursery manager who will support discussion with the appropriate people.

Universal entitlement – All families age 3 and 4 are eligible for 15 universal hours Term Time only (38 weeks per year), there is no stipulation on eligibility for these hours. A child becomes eligible the term following their 3rd Birthday and the terms are as follows 1st September, 1st April or 1st January.

Working Parent entitlement - children 9 months plus in this category will be eligible for 30 hours per week Term Time (38 weeks per year). A child becomes eligible the term after they turn 9 months, the terms are as follows 1st September, 1st April or 1st January

How do I apply for funding?

To receive funding families will be required to apply for the funding and supply the nursery with the relevant documents, this will include a funding code (obtained by the Best Start in Life Website, formerly known as Childcare Choices Website). This is for the families that are eligible for the working Family Entitlement.

To find out if you are eligible you will need to apply for this funding through the Local Authority. If you are eligible for the Disadvantage funding, you will need to provide information to confirm this. Depending on the Local Authority this could be in the form of a Golden ticket, Letter or simply confirmation on the funding portal.

All families will need to complete the funding application that will be supplied by nursery, this will be completed online through the funding loop portal. It is imperative these are completed in a timely manner to allow nursery to update the booking information and allocate the appropriate hours to your nursery invoice. If the paperwork is not completed this will impact your eligibility.

Reconfirming Eligibility

All families accessing 30 hours are required to re-confirm their eligibility every 3 months via the Best Start in Life Website regardless if the child has commenced nursery or not. Failure to do this will remove your access to the 30 hours, if this has been applied to your invoice this will then be recalculated and the funded hours will then become private paying fees.

Thrives delivery of funding

At Thrive our funding is delivered on a stretched basis (Term Time only at Managers discretion), this means that the funding is delivered all year round using the following calculations:

15 hours per week x 38 Weeks Term Time = 570 hours per year. This is then divided over the 51 operational weeks per year – this means you will receive 11.17 hours per week.

30 hours per week x 38 weeks Term Time = 1140 hours per year. This is then divided over 51 operational weeks per year – families will then receive 22.35 hours per week.

As nurseries are closed between Christmas and New year there will be no funding applied to your account during this period. This will mean all payable sessions will be invoiced at the usual day rate.

Please make the Nursery Manager aware if you are using shared care (splitting funding with another nursery). This is to ensure your invoices are worked out correctly for you.

Please be aware that the delivery method of the funding cannot be changed part way through a term, we can however change it from the following term.

Sessions available within Thrive nurseries are as follows:

Full day (hours to be confirmed by each nursery).

Half Day AM/PM (hours to be confirmed by each nursery).

Mini Day – this is only available to those currently accessing as it is no longer part of our available session to book (hours to be confirmed at each nursery).

Essential Extras charge

The Early Years funding is designed to pay for the education of children. There are associated costs that are not covered by the funding that is received. At Thrive we have additional charges for meals, nappies and wipes, the breakdown of this is as follows

AM	PM	Ful Day Charges	Part Funded Charges
Meal time charges £4.50	Meal time charges £3.00	Meal time charges £7.50	Meal time charges £1.75
Nappies and Wipes charges £1.00	Nappies and Wipes charges £1.00	Nappies and Wipes charges £2.00	Nappies and Wipes charges £0.50
Total cost per morning session £5.50	Total cost per afternoon session £4.00	Total cost per full day session £9.50	Total cost per part day session £2.25

At Thrive our aim is to make the day to day operations easy for both families and teams, this is why all private paid hours are all inclusive of the Essential Extras. During funded days these extras will be added to your invoice unless you inform the nursery manager **before the beginning of a new term** that you will be opting out of these optional charges. If a family choses to opt out of these Essential Extras then they will be responsible for providing the

additional items as stated above. All Items will be itemised on your monthly invoice. As a company we do not have the facility to store large bulk nappies; for these reasons we require each child to arrive with 5 nappies per day in their nursery bag which must be brought to and from nursery each day. If you have opted out of the meal charges families must ensure children have been served breakfast before arriving at nursery. Families must adhere with our packed lunch policy (your nursery manager can discuss this with you).

Your Invoice

Each month you will receive a monthly invoice which will provide a breakdown of the charges in relation to your booked sessions each month. The invoice will show where and how you have received the funded hours. It will also include the Essential Extra charges and any additional private funded hours.

If you do not reconfirm your eligibility, meaning you will no longer be eligible for the funded hours, your invoice will be amended accordingly and reissued.

Inline with funding rules we are unable to allocate more than 10 hours funding per day, the remaining hours of the day will be charged at the usual nursery rate. The times for the 10 hour day are highlighted on your invoice, these hours are set hours and can not be amended as this is the delivery of our normal nursery day. On funded days if your child does not attend for the 1 hour/half hour that is billed separately you can request for this charge to be removed. This must be discussed in advance and can not be changed retrospectively. This is only applicable on 10 hour funded session.

All privately paid hours are charged at the usual hourly/day rate, this information is available for you on your Fee Fact Sheet.

Registration fees

When securing a place for your child there is a registration fee charge, this is highlighted on the Fee Fact Sheet for your nursery. If you have secured a funded only place and will not be charged for any private hours then a registration fee will not be required. The Nursery Management team will be happy to advise if you are unsure.