



12.1 Early Years Funding Policy

Little 1 Nursery is open Monday to Friday 8am to 5.45pm for 50 weeks of the year.

See our funding sessions and fees on our website

<https://www.little1nursery.co.uk/copy-of-funding>

Please also see Additional services and enrichment policy (including food) for specific details on costs.

Early Years Funding is a scheme, administered by local authorities, which offers funded childcare hours with an Ofsted registered provider. A variety of funded hours are available depending on the child's age and the family's situation. Childcare providers can offer Early Years Funding in line with the provided guidance.

You can claim funding from the term after your child turns 2 years old, or parents can access the 9 month funding from the term after your child turns 9 months old and you will be returning from maternity leave, or starting a job within 31 days.

Terms - Children's 2nd or 3rd birthday or they turn 9 months during the below dates	Funding commences from
1 st January to 31 st March	Summer term (1 st April)
1 st April to 31 st August	Autumn term (1 st September)
1 st September to 31 st December	Spring term (1 st January)

Please check eligibility <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-childcare-if-youre-working>

Types of Early Years Funding

Tax free childcare

You can get up to £500 every 3 months (up to £2,000 a year) for each of your children to help with the costs of childcare.

<https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>

Working Families Funding

Working Families Funding is for qualifying working parents with a child aged 9 months or older, 2, 3 or 4 years old. A child will be entitled to 570 funded hours a year from the term after they have attained the relevant age and the eligibility criteria, set by the government, has been met.

Parents must apply for a positive determination of eligibility from HMRC via Childcare Service Account i.e. a valid eligibility code. This eligibility code must be provided to us before the Early Years Funding can be claimed. The parent is responsible for re-validating the eligibility code every three months when reminded by HMRC. Failure to do so may result in the Working Families Funding being withdrawn.

Supported Two-Year-old funding

A child will be entitled to 570 funded hours a year from the term after both the child has attained the age of two and the child or parent meets the eligibility criteria.

Where a child is in receipt of Supported Two-Year-old funding they will continue to receive their funded place until the point when the child becomes eligible for the Universal Funding, even if the child or parent ceases to meet the eligibility criteria during this time.

Only one type of Two-year-old funding can be claimed at a time.

Universal Three- and- Four-year-old Funding

All three and four year-olds are entitled to 570 funded childcare hours a year. Regulation requires us to validate a child's age. Parents will need to provide evidence of a child's birth date (normally a passport or birth certificate) and copies may be taken and retained as evidence of compliance.

Parent Declaration Form

Regulation requires childcare providers to enter into a separate funding agreement with parents, called the Parent Declaration Form.

Local authorities require parents to enter onto a Parent Declaration Form covering the Early Years Funding. The local authority Parent Declaration form must be signed each term. If the local authority Parent Declaration Form is not signed and returned to us Early Years Funding cannot be claimed and the full fees (without the Early Years Funding applied) will be charged to you.

We use software called Funding Loop to gather and hold this information.

Required documentation

Regulation requires childcare providers to obtain documentation to evidence eligibility for the Early Years Funding as per below:

- Supported Two year old Funded Childcare: Child's birth certificate or passport, confirmation of eligibility (e.g. local authority confirmation letter/email or code);
- Universal Funded Childcare: Child's birth certificate or passport; and
- Working Families Funding: Child's birth certificate or passport, Parent's full name, date of birth, eligibility Code issued by HMRC, and national insurance number.

Additional documentation may be needed depending on local authority requirements.

Local authority role

Each childcare provider enters into an agreement with the local authority to provide the Early Years Funding. The local authority pays the childcare provider directly for the Funded Childcare it provides to the eligible children. The parents of the eligible children do not have access to, or the right to access, the Early Years Funding paid by the local authority.

How we offer Early Years Funding

We want to make sure that families use their funding to its full potential.

As an all-year-round childcare provider we stretch the early years Funding across 50 weeks instead of limiting it to 38 weeks of term time.

- 15 hours of funded childcare over 38 weeks (term time) equates to 570 funded childcare hours a year. We offer stretched this equates to 11 hours of funded childcare a week over 50 weeks of the year.

- 30 hours of funded childcare over 38 weeks (term time) equates to 1,140 funded childcare hours a year. We offer stretched this equates to 22 hours of funded childcare a week over 50 weeks of the year.

Little 1s reserves the right to make exceptions to its funding framework on a case-by-case basis at its sole discretion.

A Fully funded place (where no additional hours are accessed) are available if requested, the Nursery Manager will discuss the options available for a fully funded place directly with parents.

Information on all the Early Years Funding eligibility criteria can be found here: <https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/>

Child absences

Little 1 nursery must keep records of children's attendance, and the local authority has the right to recover funding payments made during periods of absences. Parents are responsible for paying Little 1 nursery for any funding payments reclaimed by the local authority due to a child's absence. There will be no exchange of Early Education Funded sessions due to the child's absence. Monitoring of attendance.

- Please contact the nursery via email or telephone to inform us if your child is going to be absent or late and the reason for this.
- We will make every attempt to contact you if the reason for your child's absence is unknown (refer to our sickness policy)
- We will record reasons given for the absence, late arrival or early departure on the daily attendance register and monitor its frequency.
- We expect that you inform the nursery if your child will not be attending due to any reason such as trips and holidays etc.

Booking pattern

Little 1s requires parents to confirm their child's booking pattern before they start, we are unable to apply Funded Childcare to any ad-hoc sessions booked outside of the confirmed booking pattern at the beginning of the term. We can make permanent changes to booking patterns, if required please contact management.

Shared funding

You can share funding with other childcare settings but you cannot use funding in two settings on the same day. If you want to share funding please let us know.

See separate policy Additional services and enrichment regarding extra

Other types of funding

Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND) Funding

Every local authority has a SEND inclusion fund to support providers in meeting the needs of individual child with SEND. SEND Funding is paid directly to the provider by the local authority. When deciding on the value of SEND Funding, the local authority must consider the number of children with SEND in the local area, their level of need, and the overall capacity of the local childcare market to support these children.

SEND Funding is used to support the child with any learning and developmental delay or special educational needs or disability by accessing specialist resource and equipment.

Disability Access Funding (DAF)

DAF is available to children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance and Early Years Funding. Local authorities are responsible for checking that the DAF eligibility criteria are met. It is a one-off annual payment directly to the provider. If the child changes provider during the year, the DAF will remain with the original provider. If a child attends more than one provider, then the parent must allocate the DAF to one provider. This funding cannot be shared across providers.

DAF funding will be used to support making reasonable adjustments/adaptations to enable the child to have equal access to the provision in the same way as any other child or for resource that will be beneficial to the child.

We will liaise with the child's parents and engage with any relevant professionals to ensure that DAF is spent appropriately.

Where we have more than one child accessing DAF we may use the money for all children to support an adjustment or purchase resource that will benefit more than one child.

Any resources purchased as part of DAF remain the property of Little 1s and can be used to support future children to access the provision. If a child moves provision, it is Little 1s discretion whether to transfer any resource purchased using DAF to the new provider.

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

EYPP is additional funding that we can claim to help improve outcomes of eligible children. The local authority pays the EYPP directly to the provider.

EYPP is available to support children whose parents meet the eligibility criteria and are in receipt of Early Years Funding. Local authorities are responsible for checking that the EYPP eligibility criteria are met.

Eligibility criteria can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/get-extra-early-years-funding>

EYPP funding is used to support positive impacts on the child's development.

Deprivation Funding

Deprivation Funding is paid directly to providers by the local authority.

Deprivation Funding is available to support children whose parents meet the eligibility criteria and are in receipt of Early Years Funding. Local authorities are responsible for checking that the Deprivation Funding eligibility criteria are met.

The eligibility criteria is set by the local authority (which varies per local authority) and may take into account: -

*Child's postcode * Eligibility for Support Two-year-old Funding *Eligibility for EYPP

Deprivation Funding is not child specific and can be used to support all children within the setting. Deprivation Funding is used to close the gap in attainment of children in the nursery.