



Funding FAQ's

Government 30 Free Hours VS Funded Childcare

You may hear the Government funding initiatives being called “free childcare” or “funded childcare” and used interchangeably. Both refer to government-supported early education and childcare programs, which entitle all 3–5 year olds to the universal 15-hours funding offering. This is set to be extended to the 30-hour scheme for working parents of all eligible children aged 9 months and above by September 2025.

What is the Parental Declaration Form and why do I need it?

This form gives Brambley Tots Day Nursery permission to claim funding on your behalf from the local authority. Without it, we can't process your claim. Late submissions could result in missed funding.

What if I'm already claiming for an older child?

You'll need to add your younger child to your HMRC account and apply for a new code for them separately.

Can I mix funded and paid hours?

Absolutely. Most of our families use a combination of funded and paid hours. Brambley Tots Day Nursery will tailor your sessions to suit your needs and apply funding accordingly.

Do I need to reconfirm my eligibility?

Yes! You must reconfirm your eligibility every 3 months through your HMRC Childcare Account. Set a reminder so you don't lose your funded hours.

How many hours per week will my child be funded?

30 hours – for working parents who meet the eligibility criteria (from 9 months old onwards).

When stretched over 51.8 weeks, this equates to approximately 22 hours per week.

Does Brambley Tots Day Nursery offer fully funded places with no extra charges?

Brambley Tots Day Nursery offers funded places for eligible families; however, government funding does not cover the cost of the all-inclusive package we provide. Additional charges apply for meals, consumables (such as wipes, sunscreen, snacks), trips, and any extra hours beyond the funded entitlement.

When can I apply for childcare funding?

You can apply for childcare funding through your HMRC Childcare Account. Please ensure applications are completed on time to avoid delays.

Working family funding for when the child becomes eligible

Recommended time to apply for eligibility code:	Last date to apply for Eligibility code:
15 th October to 30 th November	By 31 st December to be funded from 1 st January
15 th January to 28 th February	By 31 st March to be funded from 1 st April
15 th June to 31 st July	By 31 st August to be funded from 1 st September

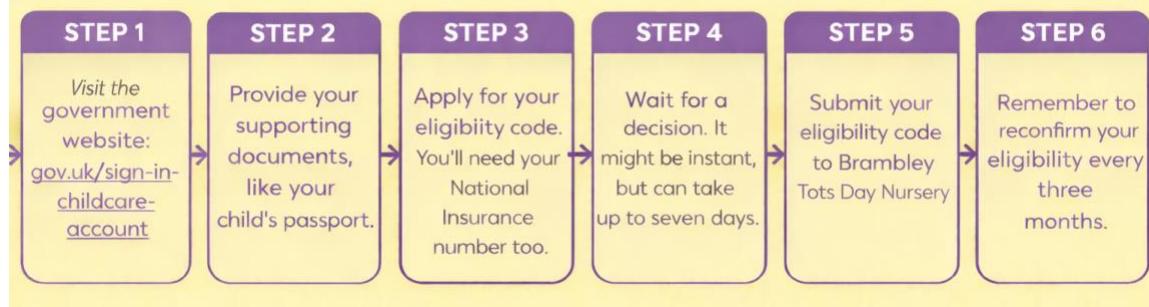
Universal funded childcare

A child turning 3 between:	Can be funded from:
1 st September to 31 st December	1 st January
1 st January to 31 st March	1 st April
1 st April to 31 st August	1 st September

When can I use the Tax-Free & Funded Hours from?

You can begin accessing your entitlements from the term following your child's eligibility based on age. For the working parent entitlement, this becomes available once your child reaches 9 months of age from September 2025.

How to apply for funding



How can I check if I'm eligible?

An eligibility code will be required for 30 hours funding. If you wish to apply for a code and to check your eligibility, you will need to set up a childcare account. [Apply for free childcare if you're working – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-childcare-if-youre-working)

You will need your personal details (and your partner's, if applicable), including your:

- National Insurance number
- Unique Taxpayer Reference (UTR), if you are self-employed.

It usually takes 20 minutes to apply. You may find out if you're eligible straight away, but it can take up to 7 days.

You will then need to provide your Brambley Tots Day Nursery with your 11-digit eligibility code, NI number and child's DOB in order for them to be able to claim the Extended funding for your child.

For more details on the Extended funding please visit [Best Start in Life – Best Start in Life](https://www.gov.uk/best-start-life-best-start-life)