

Government Funding Explained



The Early Years Funding can be complicated; this information is designed to help you unpick our offer which is in line with current legislation.

When does my child become eligible for Funding?

Funding is only available the term **AFTER** a child reaches their milestone age

- 15 hours of Universal Funding for **ALL 3+ year olds**.
- Up to 30 hours of funding is available for all eligible families from 9 months of age, (criteria apply see <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>)

Maximum Funding Entitlement

The funding entitlement that gets paid by the Government **only** covers **basic care** in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) for **38 weeks** of the school year. We go above and beyond basic. To help families manage their budgets we spread the total funded hours for the year over 50 weeks.
(With the exception of children on a FUNDED ONLY place.)

15 hours per week (stretched to 11.25 hours) x 50 weeks = 570 hours per year.

30 hours per week (stretched to 22.75 hours) x 50 weeks = 1140 hours per year.

Session times are as follows:

- Morning session 7:45am - 1:30pm
- Afternoon session 1:30pm – 6:00pm
- All day session 7:45am – 6:00pm

Sessions are set for the duration of your attendance at nursery per term; however, changes may be made in writing with a standard months' notice period, availability allowing.

2-day minimum booking pattern is required for all new children starting with us, availability allowing. Families on pre-existing contracts who want to change their booking pattern will also be subject to the 2-day minimum booking if decreasing sessions.

Funding does not cover all elements of our early years provision, and an enrichment charge is made on most of our booking options. To see what this covers please see below for more details.

All of our Enrichments are charged at £25 per whole day which equates to **£2.50 per hour** - £15.00 per morning £10.00 per afternoon these are included in the fee tables below.

If you would like to opt out of enrichment charges, please speak to the office who will provide you with our opt out policy and you can decide if this meets your needs.

We have always been proud to operate a system whereby disadvantaged families suffering financial or social hardship are supported. We have a limited number of free places which are allocated for these families. Hours based on our availability, sessions may change termly, no guarantee that siblings will be accommodated on the same days and no additional hours or days can be booked during term time or school holiday weeks. Please contact the manager directly to enquire about these places.

The Old School Nursery Shapwick Ltd.

Pricing Structure from September 2025

Non-Funded Fully Inclusive (under 3's only)

Days 1&2 charged at	Day 3 charged at	Day 4 charged at	Day 5 charged at
£85.00 per day	£85.00per day	£75.00 per day	£70.00 per day
£170 per week	£255 per week	£330 per week	£400 per week

15 hours universal funding stretched = 11.25hrs per week

(Universal offer term after 3rd birthday or vulnerable 2-year-old children)

Day 1 - Using 10 funded hours plus 0.25 hours @£8.50per hour = £2.13 plus enrichment provision and meal service costs. = £25 (£2.50 per hour)

Total cost for day 1 =£27.13

Day 2 - Using 1.25 remaining funded entitlement with an enrichment provision and meals service cost of £2.50, plus 9 hours @£8.50 per hour= a total cost for day 2 = £79.00

Day 3 – no funding, charged at £85.00

Day 4 - no funding, charged at £75.00

Day 5 - no funding, charged at £70.00

2 days per week	3 days per week	4 days per week	5 days per week
£106.13	£191.13	£266.13	£336.13

30 hours funding stretched = 22.75hrs per week

Day 1and 2 - Using 10 funded hours per day plus 0.25 hours @£8.50 = £2.13 per day plus enrichment provision and meal service costs. = £25 per day (£2.50 per hour)

Total cost for 2 days =£ 54.26

Day 3- 2.75 funded hours on day 3 with an enhanced provision and meals service cost of £3.50, plus 7.5 hours @£8.50 per hour= Total cost for day 3 = £67.25

Day 4 – no funding charged at £75.00

Day 5 - no funding charged at £70.00

2 days per week	3 days per week	4 days per week	5 days per week
£54.26	£121.51	£196.51	£263.01

Please note that continued use of our services implies your acceptance of our new fee structure.

What does the enrichment charge cover?

Being able to charge an enrichment fee is vital for the sustainability of our setting. If even small numbers of families 'opt out' it will significantly impact the rich range of provision that currently contributes to why parents choose us in the first place and to the high-quality vision that drives us.

"The base rate funding is calculated to include the cost of all necessary resources and facilities to deliver a child's funded education place as identified within the Early Years Foundation Stage. This includes basic equipment, such as stationery, paints, toiletries etc." (quote from NCC guidance)

At The Old School Nursery, 'going above and beyond' is at the core of our philosophy for early years education as you will have seen when you visited our site for a tour.

- 1) Enhanced Provision Meals - we have our own team of chefs who plan, prepare and serve nutritious home cooked meals which cater for all allergies and intolerances. We source our fresh meat from a local butcher and adhere to the latest standards from the Early Years Foundation Stage Nutrition Guidance.
- 2) Formula milk and bottles provided for children under 1 (excluding prescription formula)
- 3) Our Nature Explorers Forest School based in the meadow site, is a unique addition to our main setting, giving huge benefits to children's learning and development in nature and experiencing the joys of the seasons in our rural setting.
- 4) We offer enhanced ratios for our 2-year-old children of 1 adult to every 4 children (1:4) rather than the 1:5 ratio which is the government standard. This enables us to deliver personalised care and interventions to support this important foundational learning stage.
- 5) We also offer enhanced spaces for our children, all of the children's room exceed the minimum space requirements set out by the government to give quality spaces for our children.
- 6) We are so proud that our team of teachers and practitioners are exceptionally experienced, have long standing service at the nursery and are highly qualified. To maintain such high standards of teaching and learning we employ the best colleagues who feel supported in their ongoing professional development opportunities. We have three teachers who hold post graduate teaching qualifications as well as Forest School Leaders and other specialist courses.
- 7) Specialist Music Sessions led by our early year's music teacher Verina.
- 8) Family events including, nativities and Christmas parties, readiness for school evenings, workshops and more.
- 9) Full access to our parental app called Family and Funding Loop including photos, videos, communication, bookings and invoices.
- 10) Graduation ceremonies offsite and learning packages for those young people off to school.
- 11) Development intervention groups of Pandora's Box and Welcomm to support attention and speech and language.
- 12) Consumables such as nappies, wipes and suncream.
- 13) Bedding for your child's sleep time and flannels to include all laundering of all items.
- 14) Specialist sensory equipment to aid cognitive development, fine motor skills, creativity and imagination.

Fees & Funding Policy

It is important that our pricing and fees are as transparent as possible for parents to be able to make an informed choice as to the type of setting they want for their child.

For those not qualifying for funding, the daily fee includes the entire enhanced provision for your child.

The Early Years Statutory Guidance states that the funding hours must be accessible free of charge with no mandatory charges and that additional services should be on the basis of parental choice. It also states that invoices should detail the free entitlement hours (with no charge), additional private paid hours, food charges, non-food consumables /activity charges, this must be in place by January 2026.