

# Funding your childcare

As the UK's leading childcare and nursery provider, we do all we can to give your child the very best start in life – and make your life easier. So if you're finding childcare funding a little tricky, we'll do our very best to help.

## Eligible Working families

- **Current** – receive 30 hours of funded childcare for children 3+
- **April 2024** – Receive 15 hours of funded childcare for children 2+
- **September 2024** – Receive 15 hours of funded childcare for children 9 months +
- **September 2025** – Receive 30 hours of funded childcare for children 9 months +

## Parents who **do not** meet eligibility criteria

- **Universal funding** – Receive 15 hours of funded childcare for 3 and 4 year olds and no change is being made
- **Parents of 2 year olds already in receipt of government support receive direct local authority funding** – no change being made



## Eight things to know about fees and funding

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### The government helps fund your childcare

Depending on the age of your child and if you meet the eligibility criteria the government will fund a proportion of your childcare in line with the above timescales. All 3 and 4 year olds can access 15 hours of funded childcare if they have not received funded hours before they turn 3.

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### Some 2 year olds may be eligible for funded childcare

They may be eligible if they receive certain means-tested benefits, have been looked after by a local authority, receive Disability Living Allowance, or have an Education Health & Care Plan (EHCP) in place. You can read more about the qualifying criteria here: [gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-2-year-olds](https://gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-2-year-olds)

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### Government funding doesn't cover all the costs

That's why we may ask you to contribute towards the other essentials and extras, like NHS-accredited meals, toiletries and enhanced activities that make Busy Bees such a special place.

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### You can stretch your allowance over the year

Government funded hours only apply to term time (38 weeks), however, you can 'stretch' these hours over the year (50 weeks) with 2 non-funded weeks in April and December. However, this can vary depending on the specific requirements of each Local Authority.



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### Stretching has benefits for you and your child

As well as helping with budgeting and balancing childcare costs, it can settle your child into a familiar routine and give them the consistent care they need for healthy, happy development.

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### Your funded hours might not cover full sessions or days

All Busy Bees nurseries offer non-funded hours, to supplement the government funded hours and make your hours go further. They also mean your child can come to us for as many hours as you need during our opening hours.

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### Our combined fee makes things easy

While it sounds like there's a lot to know, we make things simple. Our combined fee tells you how much you'll pay for each week once the costs of extras and non-funded hours are all added up. It might vary between nurseries, as running costs, staff numbers and other factors can differ.

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### Working family funding, you'll need to check your eligibility

In order to access the working family funding you will need to apply for an eligibility code from [childcarechoices.gov.uk](https://childcarechoices.gov.uk). You will also need to confirm that you are still eligible every three months and the government should remind you to do this.



## Want to know more?

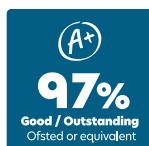
We've explained these points in much more detail in our downloadable funding pack, which tells you absolutely everything there is to know about fees, funding and Busy Bees. Whatever you decide, we'll do the best we can to fit in with your busy family life and working hours. And, if you ever need to make a change for your child, all you need to do is chat to your centre director.

### Next steps

- **Download our parent pack** from [busybeeschildcare.co.uk](https://busybeeschildcare.co.uk) for more information about how fees and funding works.

- **Speak to your centre director** about the hours and funding you need.
- **Visit [childcarechoices.gov.uk](https://childcarechoices.gov.uk)** to find out more about 15 and 30 hours' funded childcare
- **Talk to HMRC** for help on applying for your eligibility code for funded childcare code by calling **0300 123 4097**.

Visit [busybeeschildcare.co.uk](https://busybeeschildcare.co.uk)



Busy Bees Group Statistics correct as of December 2023