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The Orchard Nursery

OUR GUIDE TO FEES AND FUNDING –September 2025

Working Parent Funding:

If you are a working family and you or your partner are earning at least £183 a week (which is the equivalent of 16 hours at national minimum, or living wage), then you can apply for the following help….

- Up to **22 hours* funded childcare** for children aged 9 months to 3 years. At The Orchard Nursery we stretch the available funding to cover 51 weeks of the year.
- Up to **15 hours funded childcare** for children aged 2 for families receiving certain benefits.
- Up to **22/30 hours* funded childcare** for children aged 3-4 years. You can choose to attend term time only when your child turns 3 years old.

*You won't be able to get funded childcare if you or your partner expects to earn £100,000 net income or more.

How to apply



When to apply

It's all down to when their birthday falls, and when your maternity leave ends, so make sure you plan ahead. Click HERE for more details

Your child can start claiming the funding the term after they are eligible and have received a valid eligibility code, whichever is later. Term start dates are 1st September, 1stJanuary and 1st April.

To keep your funded hours childcare place, you need to check your details are up to date every 3 months by reconfirming. You will receive an email reminding you to complete this.

When your child will be eligible for 9-month-old+ funding

Children born in…	Will be 9 months old in….	Can get 22 hours funding from….
January	October	Spring term 1st January
February	November	Spring term 1st January
March	December	Spring term 1st January
April	January	Summer Term 1st April
May	February	Summer Term 1st April
June	March	Summer Term 1st April
July	April	Autumn Term 1st September
August	May	Autumn Term 1st September
September	June	Autumn Term 1st September
October	July	Autumn Term 1st September
November	August	Autumn Term 1st September
December	September	Spring term 1st January

Universal Funding for 3–4-year-olds

15 hours of funded childcare is available for children aged 3-4 years old. This is available to everyone, there is no need to apply and funded hours will be automatically applied to your invoice. If you wish to use your funded hours with no additional charges, please give the nursery plenty of notice to make sure the necessary amendments can be made to your booking.

Families in receipt of Government support

Parents in receipt of additional government support can apply for the following help:

Up to 15 hours funded term time childcare for 2-year-olds. Government support includes things like Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance, Universal Credit and Child Tax Credit; you can also get help with childcare if a child is looked after by Local Authority or gets Disability Living Allowance.

Create an account and apply here - Two year old families receiving certain benefits You will receive a code, which you will need to give to the nursery.

Tax free Childcare

A scheme by the UK Government to help working parents with the cost of childcare.

For every £8 you pay into an online account, the government will add an extra £2, up to £2,000 per child per school year. This could result in a 20% reduction in your childcare expenses and can be used in conjunction with funded childcare hours.

Check if you are eligible by visiting the governments **Best Start in Life Parent Hub** website at https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/

We accept payments for your invoice directly from this account. Please give your child's reference code to the nursery to help us allocate the payment.

Stretched or Term Time Funding

We are open for 51 weeks of the year, which means the funding can be stretched over the number of weeks we are open. This means that you can take less than 15/30 hours per week, but over more weeks a year.

Working families funding (9 months old to 2-year-olds). We only offer stretched funding over 51 weeks of the year.
30hrs stretched over 51 weeks = 22 **hours**

Families receiving additional Government support (2 year olds). We offer stretched or term time
15hrs only over 38 weeks – (term time) or 10hrs over 51 weeks (stretched)

Universal and Working families funding (3- & 4-year-olds only). We offer stretched or term time
15hrs over 38 weeks or 11hrs over 51 weeks. 30hrs stretched over 51 weeks = 22 hours

Above and Beyond

The Orchard Nursery operates an **"Above and Beyond"** Contract. We offer government-funded early education places in line with national funding regulations. The funded hours cover the cost of standard early education only and does not include additional services such as additional hours, meals, suncream, online journals, outings or extracurricular activities. As a result, we add an Additional Service Charge to funded hours to ensure we can provide these to all children in our "**Above and Beyond**" contracts.

Our Additional Service Charge does not apply to those receiving government support, for example Families receiving additional Government support for 2 year olds or children receiving Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP). Those parents will instead operate under a "Government Supported Funded Only" contract. Children on this contract will receive the same quality of care, and education and the same access to provision.

Including the Additional Service Charge on our **"Above and Beyond"** contracts ensures we can run our nursery to the highest quality and provide the children with a rich and fulfilling experience. Our charges for the Above and Beyond contract are reasonable and competitively priced to ensure you receive the best value for your money. We prioritise quality and affordability, ensuring that the consumables meet your needs without exceeding your budget. We rely on parents' contributions to provide high quality, enhancing extras that make The Orchard Nursery such a special place.

Parents reluctant or unable to pay this charge have an alternative option, which is operating under the "Funded Only" contract. Note that this contract has limitations around any additional sessions. There are also strict guidelines on what you would be required to provide during each session. In these circumstances children who do not participate in optional activities will continue to receive provision that complies with the EYFS. *Please see the nursery manager to explain in more detail.*

Our Sessions and Fees

Sessions	Above and Beyond Contract	Additional Information
8am-1pm 1pm-6pm 8am-6pm	**Additional Services Charge** Cost per funded hour: - 80p – All Meals 10p – Extracurricular activities 10p – Non-food consumable – eyLog / Suncream **Total - £1.00 per funded hour**	The additional services charge (ASC) is applied to all funded hours delivered. This hourly charge covers the cost of breakfast, morning snack, two-course cooked lunch (packed cold lunch in special circumstances) and afternoon tea. The ASC includes additional activities, outings, eyLog subscription and all food. (see page 3-4 for more details)
9am-3pm (This session is only offered to children aged 3-4 years old)	**Standard Chargeable Rate** **Additional hours £6.00 per hour.** ***This applies to non-funded hours***	The standard chargeable rate is hours attended in addition to the funded hours and includes all of the above.

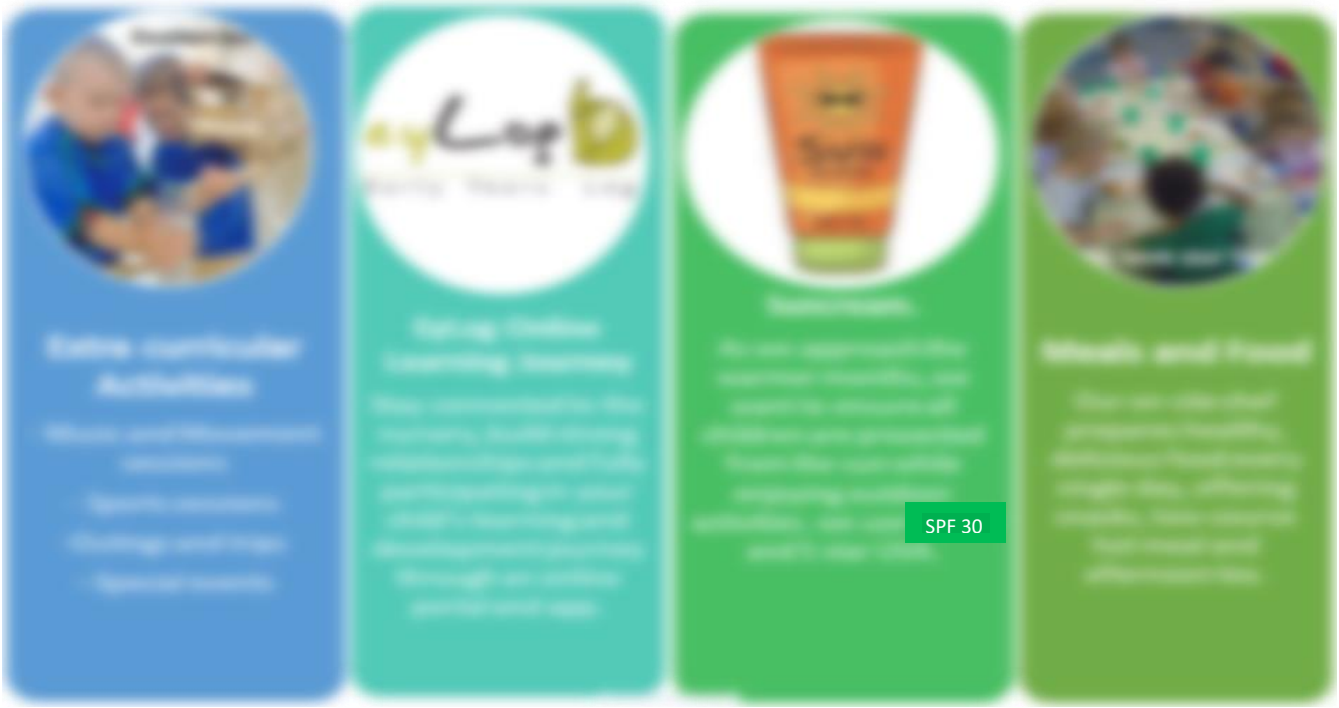
Example – Based on Stretched Hours

Sally is 3 years old and attends 3 days a week (30 hrs) and is eligible for 30 hours funding. Stretched funding is 22 hrs a week

Weekly costs: ASC: 22 hours x £1.00 **= £22**. Unfunded hours: 8 hours x £6.00 **= £48. Total: £22 + £48 = £70 a week**

Monthly invoice based on a 4 week month = **£280**. With Tax-free Childcare: You pay **£224** and the Gov adds £56.00

Our "Above and Beyond" Contract – Whats Included?



Above and Beyond - Extra-Curricular activities

Music, movement and sport sessions encourage language, rhythm, coordination, supports balance, motor skills and overall fitness. It encourages teamwork, turn-taking and confidence, as well as engages children in a creative and fun way. 10p for every funded hour claimed e.g. £2.20 per week when claiming 22 funded hours.

{Children operating on a Funded Only Contract will receive the same quality of care and education at a standard, in-house provision as specified in the Early Years Foundation stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework.}

Boogie Mites – Music and movement session

Weekly Outings to Great Oaks Nursing Home



External Educational Visitors.

Squiggle Whilst you Wiggle. Dance, music and large movements to help children develop the fine muscle control they need for writing.

Above and Beyond - Meals and Snacks

At our nursery, we are committed to providing fresh, nutritious, and well-balanced meals for all children in our care. Our dedicated chef, Lesley, prepares meals on-site daily, ensuring that every child, regardless of their dietary needs or allergens, is catered for. This level of care and quality comes at a cost, and as the government's funding does not cover meals, we apply a meal charge to ensure we can continue providing high-quality food for all children as well as being more convenient and a stress-free option for parents. 80p for every funded hour e.g. £17.60 per week when claiming 22 hours funding.

{Children operating on a Funded Only Contract will be required to provide all packed meals, following a strict packed meals policy.}



Additional Information

- **Deposit** – (£100) This will be deducted from your child's **final month's fees** when they leave the nursery, provided that all outstanding fees on the account have been cleared. This applies regardless of the balance remaining in your Tax-Free Childcare account. £25 Settling-in package which is non-refundable. The deposit does not apply to funded 2-year-olds claiming certain benefits or children who are eligible for EYPP.
- **Settling in package** - £25 (This is non-refundable) To support a smooth transition into our nursery, we provide settling-in sessions where your child can gradually adjust to their new surroundings. The cost covers staff support during this period. This package does not apply to Government Supported Funded Only places, 2-year-olds claiming certain benefits or children who are eligible for EYPP.
- **Holding fee** for 2-year-olds claiming certain benefits or EYPP funded children (Early Years Pupil Premium EYPP - Receiving additional Government Support – eligibility criteria required) - £25, if you are booking 3 months in advance. This is refunded when the child starts.
- **Late payment fee** - 10% of fees due is added to the account. (Deadline date 15th of month)
- **Late collection charge** - £15 for every 15 minutes of lateness. This applies if you are late collecting at 6pm, 1pm or 3pm.
- There will be no reduction in charges where your child is unable to attend for whatever reason.
- There is a **5% discount** for families who have siblings at the nursery. Both children need to be paying the 'Standard Chargeable Rate' for this to apply.
- We do not charge any fees for days when the nursery is closed, averaging 8 Bank Holidays and the 3-4 days between Christmas and New Year.
- **Attendance** – In order to best support children to settle well and to benefit from their nursery experience children must attend a minimum of **2 sessions** (spread over 2 days) per week. Parents may select a combination of morning, afternoon or full day sessions (9am-3pm for 3–4-year-olds only) to suit their needs.
- **FREE SESSIONS FOR 9 MONTHS + AND WORKING FAMILIES OF 2 YR OLDS** – We are able to offer free Government Supported Funded only places to those children who are eligible under the Government Criteria. The Additional Service Charge per funded hour will not apply to these children. Fees for additional (non-funded) hours will apply.
- **FREE SESSIONS FOR 2-YEAR-OLDS RECEIVING GOVERNMENT SUPPORT–** We are able to offer free Government Supported Funded only places for eligible 2-year-olds. The Additional Service Charge per funded hour will not apply to 2-year-old funded places. Fees for additional (non-funded) hours will apply.
- **FREE SESSIONS FOR 3- AND 4-YEAR-OLDS –** We are able to offer free Government Supported Funded only places to 3- & 4-year-olds who have **previously accessed a government supported funded place** or who are **eligible for EYPP**. These children can access up to 15 funded hours per week free of charge. Fees for additional (non-funded) hours will apply. If you think you may be eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium Funding, please inform the Manager or Nursery Administrator, who will confirm with our funding team at BCP.

