

Fees and Funding Explained

A quick guide to childcare costs

September 2025

Welcome to Best Childcare Nursery

As a leading Early Years Provider, we ensure every child is provided with the best possible start in life.

Whether you are new to nursery or already part of our nursery community, there are several different ways to fund your childcare. Navigating fees can be a mind field, in our handy Fees and Funding pack we have tried to guide you through. From explaining the Governments Early Years funding, to explaining those inclusive costs that create a unique and outstanding experience at Best Childcare.

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Government Funding

explained

Understanding childcare funding is not easy, but there is no need to worry we are here to help. To make things simple, there are two Government funding programmes. Parents can make the most of either 15 or 30 funded hours per week, depending on your individual circumstances.

Working family funded childcare

The scheme is for qualifying working parents.

The funded 30 hours are provided across 38 weeks, during term time and, if you are living with your partner you will need to apply together.

Parents:

- Should be working at least 16 hours a week
- Can be on sick leave or parental leave
- Must each earn less than £100,000 a year
- May still be eligible while claiming benefits

The funded hours are stretched across our opening of 51 weeks per year. We can offer your child more than their funded hours, if needed which are included with our enriched package and paid for.

You can read more about this on the Government website: childcarechoices.gov.uk/

At Best Childcare...

We try and make things as consistent and simple as possible for parents. However, we do not administer the Government funding, this is done through the Local Authority and therefore we cannot be held accountable for processes and timescales.

Universal funded childcare from 9 months

Funding goes towards 15 or 30 hours of childcare across 38 weeks of term time. All parents can access this scheme.

Here's what you need to know

- From 1st September 2025 all children aged 9 months onwards will be eligible
- At Best Childcare we stretch these hours over the whole year (51 weeks) for more flexibility.
- Parents usually require their child to be in nursery longer than the funded hours, but that is not a problem. We offer our **enriched** package with additional non-funded hours to accommodate working all year round - see our fee chart for more details.

Introducing

Best Childcare

Enriched package

Government funding covers core hours only and is not intended to cover above the funded hours for 38 weeks per year. It is all exclusive of all other costs related to providing high quality childcare for working parents.

Best Childcare

Enrichment package

One package,

Endless Benefits

Best Childcare provides extra hours, conveniences inclusive of nappies, creams, wipes, suncream, meals and snacks. Extra curriculum activities for children to participate in Arts, Therapy dog, Language lessons, Music Classes. Forest school activities in the local parks and woodlands with Forest School Leaders. Local outings around Leeds including public transport to Leeds Art Gallery. Small Local Farm; Libraries and much more.

Thinking of opting out?

If you are considering opting out of Best Childcare **enrichment** package, this will need to be discussed with the **Nursery operation Manager**. They will explain the process and provide you with the relevant **Nursery Admission Policy**.

HOW THAT LOOKS

*THESE FIGURES ARE USED AS AN EXAMPLE ONLY FOR A CLAIM FOR 30 HOURS FUNDING

Full time place (stretched over 51 weeks) from 7.30am to 6pm based on five days per week.

Funded hours

22.8 – no cost to parents

Non-Funded Hours

29.7 – Chargeable

Enriched package

Charged in addition to funded hours for all conveniences.

Please Note we require the relevant **eight weeks written notice** in line with terms and conditions, all relevant charges regarding the **enrichment package** will apply during the notice period.

Making Childcare go further

For most parents 15 or 30 hours childcare is not quite enough. That's why we **stretch** our funding over the **51 weeks** and offer the **enrichment** package to fit better with your working schedules. Having a consistent routine is not only good for working parents but is great for your child's development being supported in high quality childcare.

FAQ'S

Any Questions

Does Best Childcare offer totally free places?

Yes, although we prefer to call these funded not free, however parents will be able to access their funded hours without any additional charges and in line with policies, procedures, terms and conditions. Our **enrichment** package offers excellent value and convenience. This ensure that children enjoy consistent, high-quality experiences whilst making things easier for busy parents.

If I pay for extra hours and don't use them, can I be refunded?

Unfortunately, not. We must make sure we are covering our running costs to provide the highest quality childcare at Best Childcare.

Can I roll my funded hours into the next term?

No sorry we do not have any authority over the processing and administering of the funded hours, this is all dictated by the Local Authority.

Other nurseries allow parents to send packed lunches, does Best Childcare?

At Best Childcare we are proud to have our own on-site nursery chef, who provides well balanced and nutritious meals and snacks. By maintaining this approach, we can create a safe, inclusive and enriching mealtime environment that supports children's well-being and development.

If you chose to opt out of our enrichment package, we regret to inform you that **we will not permit packed lunches or for snacks to be brought into nursery.** This decision has been made for the following reasons:

- **Nutritional consistency**
- **Independence and learning**
- **Food safety standards**

I have missed the deadline for my eligibility code; can my child still be funded?

We are sorry but should you miss the deadline, the fees will be charged as normal. We have no part of the process of administering of either the eligibility codes or funding.

Quick recap

Government funding is not intended to cover the full cost of childcare. Our new **Enrichment Package** offers all childcare and conveniences for the full 51 weeks of the year.

Our **fully privately paid** childcare (without any funding) is inclusive of all services and therefore there is not requirement to opt into the **Enrichment Package.**

You can find all fees and the full Enrichment Package costs on our fee sheet which is available on our website.