

Fees & Funding



Working together to inspire your world

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At Kids Planet we offer funded childcare places to eligible families. We understand that paying for childcare isn't always easy which is why we encourage all our parents to make the most of the funded hours and support offered to them. How many funded hours you get depends on how old your child is and your family circumstances.

Across all our nursery settings, we provide a range of learning and play activities, carefully planned to keep your child active, happy, and engaged. By helping with childcare costs, funded childcare enables your child to attend a Kids Planet nursery and:

- experience daily routines and develop good habits helping them to feel secure and safe
- develop social skills which enable them to form healthy relationships with other people
- learn how to share and take turns
- listen and communicate their ideas and become independent
- build on important skills for social, emotional, and academic success
- get ready for primary school.

Child Care Offer

Eligibility: Working families in Wales with children aged 3-4 years old may be entitled to up to 30 hours of funded childcare or early education for up to 48 weeks a year. You will also receive 9 funded weeks out of the 13 school holidays. If you attend Nursery on a 52 week contract we will ask you which of the remaining four weeks you will fund yourself. These will be known as your unfunded weeks. The amount you will get depends on how many hours of early education your local authority offers regardless of whether your child is attending part time school or not.

Usage:

Flexible with one or more providers.

Mandatory early education hours (at least 10 hours during term time).

Up to 20 hours of childcare during term time (up to 30 hours during holidays).

If you do not use all of your funded hours in one week, you cannot use them in another week.



Requirements:

Must be a resident in Wales.

Employed and earning at least the equivalent of 16 hours per week at National Minimum Wage.

Each parent's income must not exceed £100,000 per year.

Special Cases: Eligibility may still apply if receiving statutory pay/leave or enrolled in a qualifying education course.

Application: All parents wishing to receive Childcare Offer for Wales funded childcare will need to apply through the national digital service The online service is bilingual and can be accessed via a laptop, mobile phone or tablet.

When applying, you will need:

- your child's birth certificate
- proof of your address
- proof of your household income or enrolment on a higher or further education course

Apply within the term your child turns 3 years old. More details and eligibility checks can be found here -

<https://www.gov.wales/get-30-hours-childcare-3-and-4-year-olds/eligibility>

Flying Start Funding

What is Flying Start?

Flying Start is a Welsh Government-funded programme aimed at improving outcomes for families with children under 4 years old in disadvantaged areas of Wales.

How to Apply

To apply for the Flying Start programme, you need to contact your local Family Information Service (FIS). They will provide you with all the necessary information and help you determine if you live in a Flying Start area. You can find your local FIS contact details on the GOV.WALES website¹.

Entitlement

Children who are eligible for Flying Start are able to attend Nursery during the Term Time for 2.5 hours per day.

Eligibility

The Flying Start programme is available to families with children under 4 years old who live in specific disadvantaged areas of Wales. Eligibility is primarily based on your postcode, so it's essential to check with your local FIS to see if you qualify.



Understanding Tax Free Childcare

Tax-Free Childcare is a scheme introduced 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 year - that's up to £500 every three months.

You may be eligible for Tax-Free Childcare if you (and your partner, if you have one) are:

- In work and each earning at least the National Minimum Wage or Living Wage for 16 hours a week.
- Earning under £100,000 each a year.



For every £8 you contribute towards childcare, the government generously tops it up with an additional £2. This bonus can reach up to £2,000 annually for each child. Essentially, this scheme results in a substantial 20% reduction in your childcare expenses. Now, let's break this down to understand the monthly impact:

Fees	Saving
200.00	40.00
400.00	80.00
600.00	120.00
800.00	160.00

You can use it to pay for approved childcare, which includes our services. You can manage your account online, check balances, make payments, and more.

We encourage you to check if you're eligible for a Tax-Free Childcare account by visiting the government's Childcare Choices website at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

You can use this account to pay for your childcare directly, please give your child's reference code to the nursery to help us allocate the payment



Essentials & Extras

As your Childcare Offer for Wales funding only covers the care element only, meals and transport (if applicable) will be charged separately. You will see this detailed on your statement. Sessions outside of your funding will be charged at our standard rate.

Understanding Your Fees

Term Time

If you require a term time place please make your nursery manager aware of this as soon as possible to make sure that we have the availability as we only have a limited number of spaces available.

A copy of your nursery's term dates can be provided by the nursery as these vary per Local Authority, be aware that these may differ slightly to the surrounding schools as nursery term dates will only include 38 weeks and most schools are 39 weeks.

If you access hours above your funding entitlement your bill will be charged calendar monthly so this will fluctuate slightly from month to month depending on the number of days attended in each month.

All Year Round

If you would like to attend all year round you are charged for 52 weeks in most settings, this includes bank holidays/ nursery closures which are chargeable. Your bill will be charged calendar monthly and payment is due before the 1st of the Month. Your bill will detail your Childcare Offer for Wales funded sessions, meal charges and any applicable transport charges as well as any standard sessions you have that month.

Regardless of booking pattern non-attendance for holidays, birthdays, family days out etc. will still be chargeable, if you have prolonged periods of absence the amount of funding being allocated may have to be reviewed as per the local authorities guidelines. All invoices will be received before their payment due date of the 1st of each month via email.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I apply for the Childcare Offer for Wales funding? Does my child have to attend during their unfunded weeks?

All parents wishing to receive Childcare Offer for Wales funded childcare will need to apply through the national digital service The online service is bilingual and can be accessed via a laptop, mobile phone or tablet.

When applying, you will need: your child's birth certificate, proof of your address, proof of your household income or enrolment on a higher or further education course.

Does my child have to attend during their unfunded weeks?

Yes, as you are on a 52 week contract with the nursery, in order to keep your place, we would expect attendance during your unfunded weeks.

Can I send a packed lunch for my child?

Unfortunately due to children attending nursery who suffer with allergies, we are unable to serve any food that has not been prepared by our kitchen.

What should I do if I need to change my child booking pattern?

Sometimes changes to booking patterns can mean that you can no longer claim the same amount of funded hours due to government restrictions. Please discuss any changes with nursery before committing to them to fully understand the impact this may have.

Can you claim at different settings?

Yes you can split your funding over a maximum of two sites in any one day, however it is imperative that you let each provider know that you are doing this so we can ensure that we are claiming the correct amount of funding.



Please visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk for more information on everything on help towards childcare costs