

A photograph of three children sitting at a table outdoors, eating a meal. The child in the foreground is a girl with dark hair, wearing a pink jacket, focused on eating. To her right is another child wearing a red and white patterned hat and a blue shirt. In the background, a boy with curly hair in a grey jacket is looking to the side. The table is set with plates of food, including what looks like a bean salad, and glasses of water. The background is a soft-focus view of green foliage.

Kids Planet

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Getting help to pay
Lancashire | April 2026

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Our Guide to Funded Childcare

We offer 15 and 30-hour 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 use of the funded hours and support offered to them.



The number of 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.

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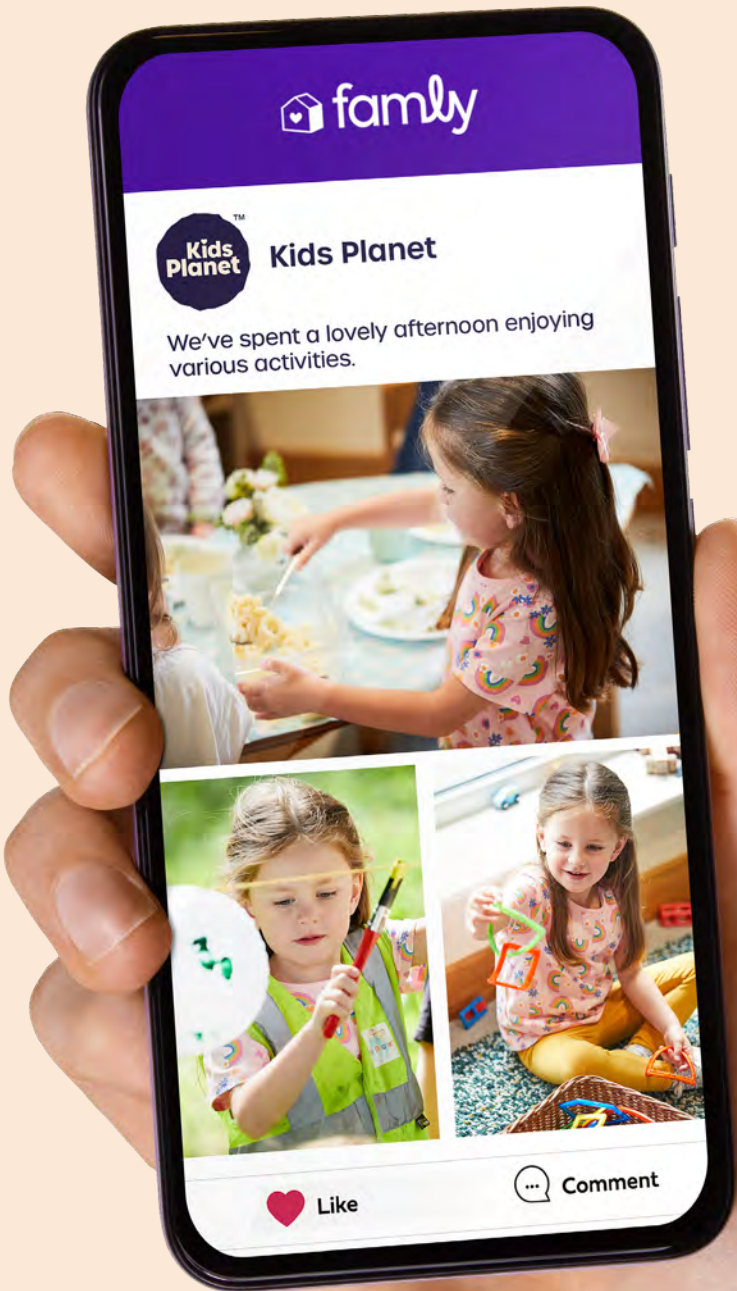
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You will be invited to download the app by the Nursery Manager, and when you do, you will have access to your child’s journey through nursery, including daily activities, invoicing, and much more.

MANAGE FINANCES WITH FAMLY

Further Information:
[Famly parents guide](#)



TERM TIME

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

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 from 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.

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If you'd like to attend all year round, you'll be charged for 52 weeks in most settings. This includes bank holidays and nursery closures, which are chargeable.

Your bill will be annualised, so you'll receive the same bill each month. If a child starts, leaves, or changes sessions mid-month, the charging will revert to calendar monthly charging for that specific month and then return to annualised billing for the coming months.

If you access hours above your funding entitlement, your bill will be annualised, meaning it will be the same each month.

$$\text{Weekly fees} \times 52 \text{ weeks} / 12 \text{ months} = \text{Annualised monthly amount}$$

Regardless of your 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 need to be reviewed as per your local authority's guidelines. All invoices will be received via email before their payment due date of the 1st of each month, and invoices can also be viewed on the Family App.



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30 HOURS A WEEK

For children aged 9 months and older, you're eligible for up to 30 hours of funded childcare per week. Over 38 weeks, this would total 30×38=1140 hours.

However, we are committed to making sure parents receive a consistent bill regardless of when they become eligible for their funding, so we stretch this evenly over 52 weeks, which is 22 hours per week.

FUNDED HOURS FOR WORKING PARENTS

The number of funded hours you receive depends on when you become eligible:

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
15 Hours Funding	11	11	9

Autumn or Spring starters: Get 22 hours.

Summer starters: Start with 18 hours, increasing to 22 hours from the new academic year.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply, set up a childcare account. Different schemes exist in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. If you pay for childcare and want help with costs through Tax-Free Childcare, you can apply using the same service.

APPLICATION TIMING

Apply for up to 30 hours of funded childcare when your child is 23 weeks old. If you're returning to work, the timing depends on your start date.

REQUIREMENTS

You'll need your National Insurance number, Unique Taxpayer Reference (UTR) if self-employed, and other relevant details.



Remember, eligibility criteria may vary, so it's best to check the official government website for the most up-to-date information.

Universal Funding

15 hours of funded childcare is available for every family in England with 3 and 4-year-old children.

You will receive 15 hours of funded childcare per eligible child per week during term time (38 weeks), totaling 570 hours per year that you can use flexibly with one or more childcare providers.

However, we are committed to making sure parents receive a consistent bill regardless of when they become eligible for their funding, so we stretch this evenly over 52 weeks, which is 11 hours per week.

Stretched;	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	TOTAL
	Funded 5 hrs	Funded 5 hrs				£0.00
	Funded 10 hrs					£0.00

Sessions are subject to availability please speak to your nursery manager.

Term Time;	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	TOTAL
	Funded 5 hrs	Funded 5 hrs	Funded 5 hrs			£0.00
	Funded 10 hrs	Funded 5 hrs				£0.00

Sessions are subject to availability please speak to your nursery manager.

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15 Hours Funding	11	11	9

Autumn or Spring starters: Get 22 hours.

Summer starters: Start with 18 hours, increasing to 22 hours from the new academic year.

If you wish to use your funded hours with no additional charges, this can be accommodated, but please give your nursery plenty of notice to ensure the necessary amendments can be made to your booking.

As it is available to everyone, there is no need to apply, and this will be automatically applied to your bills based on your booking pattern at the time, and as long as a parent agreement has been completed (see Funding Loop Sections).

Your child will be entitled the term after they turn 3:

Children born	Eligible from the start of the term beginning or following
1 Jan – 31 Mar	1 Apr
1 Apr – 31 Aug	1 Sep
1 Sep – 31 Dec	1 Jan

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If you live in England and receive certain benefits, your 2-year-old may be eligible for funded childcare.

Details can be found on the [Best Start in Life website](#).

However, at Kids Planet we are committed to making sure parents receive a consistent bill regardless of when they become eligible for their funding, so we apply funding as 11 hours per week.

WHAT’S COVERED

Eligible children can receive funded childcare for up to 15 hours per week during term time (38 weeks of the year). **This totals 15×38=570 hours maximum per year.**

FUNDED HOURS FOR WORKING PARENTS

The number of funded hours you receive depends on when you become eligible:

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
15 Hours Funding	11	11	9

Autumn or Spring starters: Get 22 hours.

Summer starters: Start with 18 hours, increasing to 22 hours from the new academic year.

Stretched;	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	TOTAL
Funded 5 hrs	Funded 5 hrs					£0.00
Funded 10 hrs						£0.00

Sessions are subject to availability please speak to your nursery manager.

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Sessions are subject to availability please speak to your nursery manager.

If you wish to use your funded hours with no additional charges, this can be accommodated, but please give your nursery plenty of notice to ensure the necessary amendments can be made to your booking.

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EYPP FUNDING

The Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) is available to early years providers who offer government-funded early education places.

This funding is aimed at improving the education of disadvantaged children aged 9 months and above.

DAF FUNDING

Disability Access Funding (DAF) is available to support children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) who are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA). Children become eligible for DAF once they start receiving government-funded early education, which can begin from 9 months of age depending on eligibility. Please note, DAF is not automatically available to all children with SEND - eligibility is specifically linked to receiving DLA.



Further Information:
[Get extra funding for your early years provider](#)



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All Year Round – Four days

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Hours Attended	11	11	11	11
Funded Hours	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Payable Hours	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Nursery Full Day Rate	= 5.5 Hours x Nursery Full Day Hourly Rate			
Meals	£3.50	£3.50	£3.50	£3.50
Consumables	£1.00	£1.00	£1.00	£1.00
Activities	£0.50	£0.50	£0.50	£0.50

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Term Time – Four days

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Hours Attended	11	11	11	11
Funded Hours	10	10	10	0
Payable Hours	1	1	1	11
Nursery Full Day Rate	= 1 Hour x Nursery Full Day Hourly Rate			= 1 Hour x Nursery Full Day Hourly Rate
Meals	£7.00	£7.00	£7.00	£0.00
Consumables	£2.00	£2.00	£2.00	£0.00
Activities	£1.00	£1.00	£1.00	£0.00

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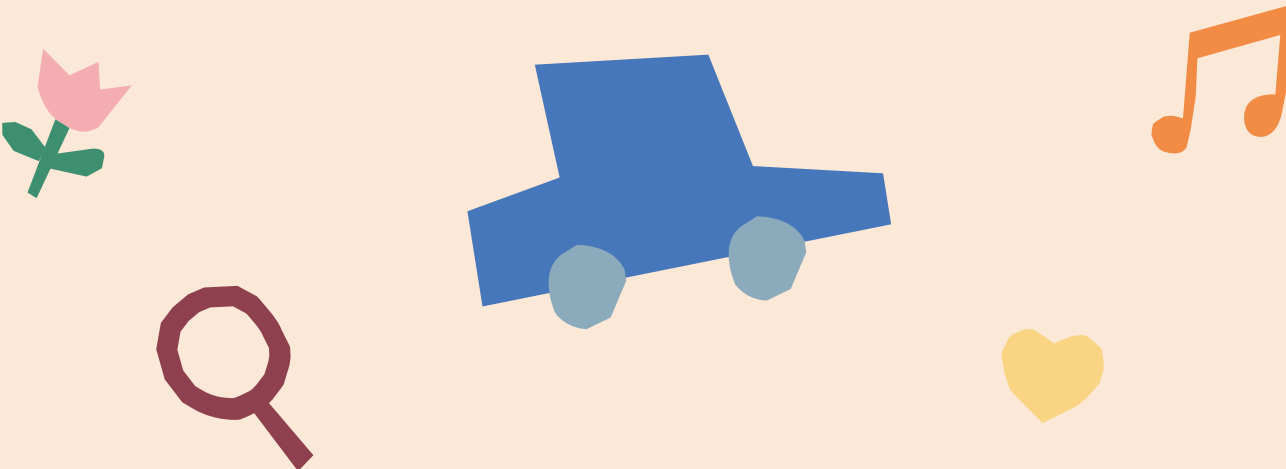
A scheme introduced by the UK government to help working parents with the cost of childcare.

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	Savings
£200	£40
£400	£80
£800	£160

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 Best Start in Life website.

You can use this account to pay for your childcare directly. Please provide your child’s reference code to the nursery to help us allocate the payment

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Government funding is intended to deliver up to 30 hours a week of free, high-quality, flexible childcare.

Government funding is NOT intended to cover the costs of providing nutritious meals and snacks, other consumables such as sun cream and nappies, additional hours, or educational outings and enrichment activities.

At Kids Planet, we believe these items are a key part of providing the highest quality care and education, supporting the development of children, and ensuring a nurturing and engaging environment. We therefore charge separately for these items, reflecting the cost to our nursery and ensuring the sustainability of our offering.

However, these are Optional Services, and should you wish to opt out of paying any of these additional fees, there are alternatives available to you. These are set out in the Essentials & Extras Policy Funding information.

Alternatives may include, bringing your own consumables, your child being unable to attend extra curricular activities, or the fee being waived. Alternatives can be discussed with the Nursery Manager, and may change from time to time based on nursery policies.

To aid with business planning, opt-outs can be done termly, and we must be notified 30 days before the start of the term. Please speak to your Nursery Manager if you wish to opt out of any of these charges.

The charges are as follows; these are only applied to sections of your booking where funding is applied:

	Full Day	Half Day	Short Day
Meals	£7.00	£3.50	£5.60
Consumables	£2.00	£1.00	£1.60
Activities	£1.00	£0.50	£0.80

For example, if you attended 2 days with 5.5 hours of funding each day, you would be charged £5.00 per day for all meals, consumables, and activities.

Further Information: [Essentials & Extras Policy](#)

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To claim Early Years Funding for your child, you must complete a 'Parental Agreement' form.

These forms must be completed multiple times throughout the child's attendance at the nursery, and most of the information required on the forms has already been provided to the nursery, most likely during registration. Printing, handing out, completing, and returning these paper forms is time-consuming for everyone involved.

Funding Loop allows you to complete and return these parental agreement forms online, using a computer or a mobile device. As much of the information is already known to the nursery, most of the form is pre-filled. All you need to do is fill in any blanks, sign (using a finger on the screen or with a mouse), and submit. If you are required to fill in another form for a future term, Funding Loop remembers any previously entered information, making it even easier the second time around.

Funding Loop is not affiliated with your local authority in any way; it is simply a tool that makes getting parental agreement forms completed easier for the nursery and the parent or carer.

Funding Loop will NOT re-check 30-hour codes every 3 months for eligible parents. You MUST revalidate your codes with HMRC every 3 months to continue receiving extended hours of funding.

When you receive your parent agreement, please complete it ASAP, as we cannot claim the funding from the local authority without it.



Of course, Kids Planet has already checked that Funding Loop is completely safe for our parents to use, but if you would like to take a look, here are the links:

[Funding Loop Privacy Policy](#)

[Funding Loop Security Overview](#)

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Question

CAN I SWITCH FROM TERMLY TO STRETCHED FUNDING OR VICE VERSA?

Answer

We discourage parents from changing from stretched to term-time funding. If you do need to change, we ask that this occurs at the start of the next term rather than mid-term. If you need to change urgently and cannot wait until the next term, please discuss this with your nursery.

Question

I’VE MISSED THE DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR MY 30-HOUR CODE. CAN MY CHILD STILL BE FUNDED?

Answer

Working Families Codes only provide funding from the term following your application. This means if you miss the deadline—on the last day of March, August, or December – you won’t be able to claim your funded hours.

HMRC usually sends a reminder before each deadline, as do we, so it’s important to watch out for these notifications. Ultimately, it is the parents’ responsibility to ensure they have a valid Working Families Code in place before the start of each term.

Question

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I NEED TO CHANGE MY CHILD BOOKING PATTERN?

Answer

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 the nursery before committing to them to fully understand the impact this may have.

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Question

CAN YOU CLAIM AT DIFFERENT SETTINGS?

Answer

Yes, you can split your funding across 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.

Question

DO I NEED TO PAY A REGISTRATION FEE?

Answer

If you are attending purely for your funded hours with us, then no registration fee will be applicable. However, if you will be attending private hours on top of your funded hours, a registration fee would be applicable.

Question

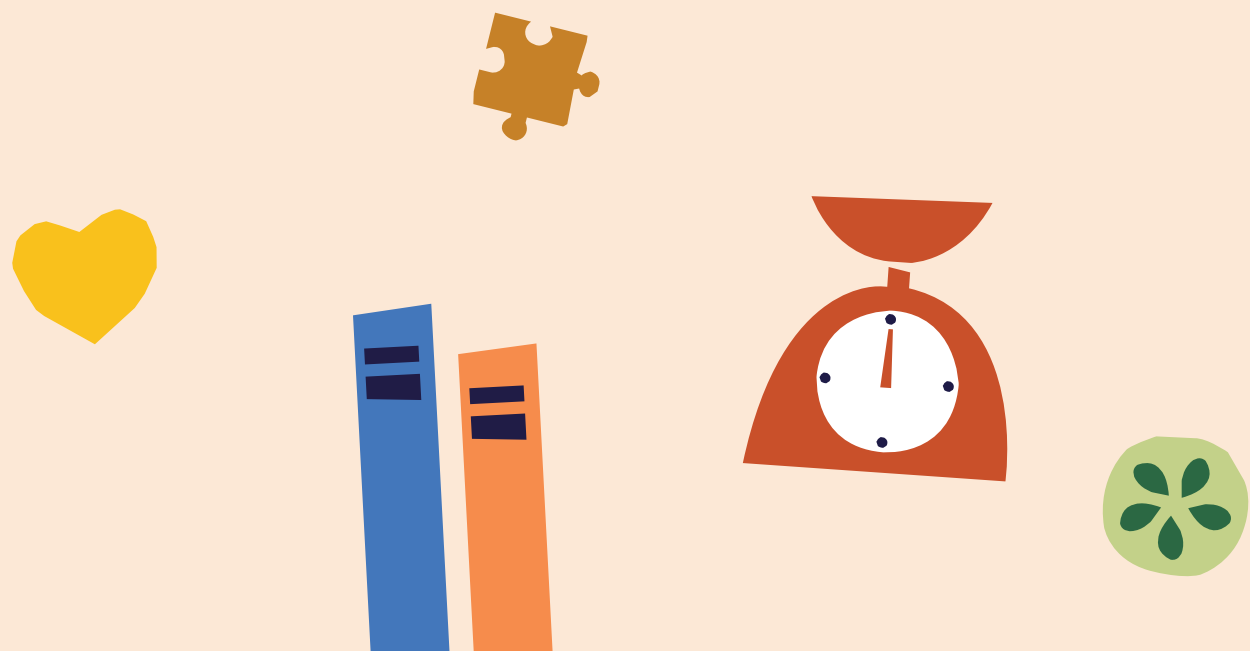
CAN I COMBINE FUNDING SCHEMES?

Answer

The Government Schemes cannot be used in conjunction with another available scheme. For example, if you are utilising Tax-Free Childcare, you cannot use Universal Credits for payment towards childcare fees.

To understand which schemes can be used please see the **Best Start in Life** or the **GOV.UK** website for further information.

Visit: www.beststartinlife.gov.uk



Need help with **fees and funding?**

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU, ANYTIME!

Please contact your local nursery for any further information, details can be found at **www.kidsplanetdaynurseries.co.uk**

