

Funding Policy & Fees



About Us

- **Opening hours:** 07:30/08:00 – 18:00/18:30, Monday to Friday
- **Weeks open:** 51 weeks/year (closed 1 week at Christmas + public holidays)
- **Minimum booking:** 2 full days per week
- **Registration fee:** £50 to secure your child's place. A registration fee does not apply to "Funded Only" spaces
- **Payment:** Monthly in advance (1st of the month) via bank transfer, childcare vouchers, or tax-free childcare

Our nursery adheres to the London Borough of Sutton's Early Years Provider Agreement and funding policies, ensuring compliance with statutory requirements for free early education entitlements.

Non-Funded Inclusive Rate (from January 2026)

Attendance	1–2 Days	3–5 Days
Full-time daily	£98.07	£84.84
Ad-hoc daily	£98.07	–
Ad-hoc hourly	£10	–
Early/Late session	£5 per booking	£5 per booking

What Our Inclusive Rate Covers

Our inclusive rate ensures every child benefits from **everyday care, enriching experiences, and quality improvements:**

Everyday care and essentials, including but not limited to: Meals: Breakfast, two snacks, lunch, tea and milk alternatives

- Hygiene items: Nappies, wipes, tissues, and their disposal

Learning experiences and enrichment, including but not limited to:

- Extra-curricular activities: Outdoor Art Area, Music class, Sensory Adventures, Animal Therapy, Bourne Sports
- Special activities: Cooking, science experiments, and other planned enrichment

Additional Enhancements to Support Children's Learning and Development

Our funded entitlement provides access to high-quality early education and care. In addition, we invest in a range of enhancements that support children's experiences, development, and wellbeing, including:

- Enhanced outdoor learning experiences: Continued development of our extensive outdoor provision, including opportunities for children to engage with nature and care for our chickens and ducks as part of their learning experiences.
- Specialist knowledge and practice: Access to additional practitioner development and specialist approaches, including the Umbrella Project, ADHD Foundation resources, The Curiosity Approach, and other targeted training that supports children's individual needs and learning.
- Additional specialist support: Opportunities for enhanced support through Speech and Language Therapy drop-in sessions (three times per year) and further assessments where appropriate to help identify and support children's communication and development needs.

These enhancements are designed to complement the funded early education offer and provide additional opportunities and experiences for children.

Funded Childcare Hours

We offer government-funded childcare for children aged 9 months to 4 years:

15-hour universal entitlement

- Eligibility: All children aged 3 and 4, from the term after their third birthday
- Funding: Up to 570 hours/year
- Minimum attendance: 2 days/week

30-hour extended entitlement

- Eligibility: Working parents meeting government criteria
- Funding: Additional 570 hours/year (total 1,140 hours/year)
- Minimum attendance: 3 days/week
- Application: Parents must apply for a code before the term they wish to start using the funded childcare

30-hour funded childcare for children aged 9 months to 4 years

- Eligibility: Working parents meeting government criteria
- Funding: 30 hours/week during term time (1,140 hours/year)
- Availability: From the term after the child turns 9 months old
- Minimum attendance: 3 days/week to access full 30-hour funding; children attending 2 days or less can access up to 15 hours
- Application: Parents must apply for a code before the term they wish to start using the funded childcare

Funded Early Learning for 2-Year-Olds Eligibility:

Your child may be eligible for 15 hours of funded early learning if you live in England and meet the eligibility criteria.

This may include: Receiving certain benefits (subject to income limits). Your child meeting specific criteria, such as being looked after by the local authority, having an EHC plan, receiving Disability Living Allowance, or having left care through a relevant order.

For full eligibility details, visit: <https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/childcare-early-years-education/15-and-30-hours-support/additional-support/eligibility/>

Funding: 15 hours/week during term time (1,140 hours/year)

Funding does not cover:

- Meals
- Nappies
- Additional hours
- Extra activities

Availability: From the term after the child turns 2 years old

Minimum Attendance: 2 days/week

Application: Applications must be made through the appropriate funding scheme. If you meet both Early Learning for 2-year-olds and Working Parent Entitlement criteria, you should apply through the Early Learning for 2-year-olds scheme.

Important Notes:

- Our daily sessions are 10 hours, and we can claim up to 10 funded hours per day.
- Early start or late finish sessions are charged separately (£5 per booking).
- If parents choose to attend funded hours only, there is no additional charge. However, please note that funded hours only do not cover the cost of meals, consumables, or extra activities outside the curriculum, which are an additional cost to the nursery.
- Opting in/out of additional charges requires accessing the termly opt-in/opt-out option, with 2 months' notice required to make changes.
- We strongly encourage families to opt in, as this ensures consistency and helps us maintain our high-quality service. Where families choose to opt out, we will do our best to accommodate, but it may affect the flexibility of sessions, staffing, and overall service consistency.

We also support families in accessing Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and utilise Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) funding to enhance learning for eligible children. More details are available in our Funding Policy.

Invoice Structure

To provide consistent monthly billing, total annual funded hours are evenly distributed across 51 weeks:

- 15-hour funding: 11.2 hours/week
- 30-hour funding: 22.4 hours/week

Parents receive monthly invoices reflecting these evenly distributed hours.

Note: Funded hours cover childcare and staffing only. Meals, consumables, and extra activities incur an additional voluntary charge.

Consumables & Extra Activities

To maintain our inclusive approach, we charge a small voluntary fee per 15 hours of funding:

Category	Cost per 15 hours
Food	£13.50
Non food (Everyday care & Essentials)	£6.50
Extra Activities (Learning experiences and enrichment)	£3.76
Early/Late session	£5 per booking

Paying this fee allows us to continue offering high-quality meals, resources, and enrichment activities. Charges are optional, but we strongly encourage participation to maintain consistency and quality. Where families choose to opt out, we will do our best to accommodate this, but it may affect the flexibility of sessions available and how and when sessions can be offered (because of the disruption it causes to staffing, logistics, and consistency of service)

Costing Examples

Example 1:

3–5-year-old, 15 hours funding, attending 3 days

- Daily rate: £84.84
- Weekly attendance: 3 full days (30 hours)
- Funded hours: 15 hours = 11.2 stretched hours/week
- Parent pays for remaining 18.8 hours
- Consumables (per 15 funded hours):
 - Food: £13.50
 - Non-food: £6.50
 - Extra Activities: £3.76

Example 2:

3–5-year-old, 30 hours funding, attending 3 days

- Daily rate: £84.84
- Weekly attendance: 3 full days (30 hours)
- Funded hours: 30 hours = 22.4 stretched hours/week
- Parent pays for remaining 7.6 hours
- Consumables (per 15 funded hours):
 - Food: £13.50
 - Non-food: £6.50
 - Extra Activities: £3.76

Funding Calendar & Parent Declaration

- Term dates are aligned with the London Borough of Sutton's academic calendar
- Funding periods are divided into three terms, with hours distributed evenly across the year
- Invoices are issued monthly
- Parent Declaration Form – Early Education and Childcare Entitlements 2026–27
- Parents are asked to complete this form in order to claim their Early Education and Childcare Entitlement funded place in the London Borough of Sutton. The information collected on this form will be used to assess the Early Education and Childcare Entitlement you're eligible for, as well as eligibility for Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) and the Disability Access Fund (DAF).

Questions & Support

If you have any questions about funding, fees, or your child's weekly charge, please contact our Nursery Management Team. We are happy to provide a clear, tailored breakdown specific to your child's attendance. We aim to be fully transparent with families regarding all fees. In line with statutory guidance (1st April 2025, section A1.35; 25/26 and 26/27 Provider Agreement, section 13.5; and new guidance from 1st April 2026, section A1.40), all fees are published on our website to ensure compliance with funding requirements.