



Government Funding at Daisy Chain Day Nursery

The fees and funding side of nursery care can feel complicated, and something else to think about on top of your busy schedule. This guide aims to provide information to parents about the early years funding entitlements, how to apply, and how we deliver these hours at Daisy Chain Nursery. More information regarding the funding entitlements and help with childcare can be found at: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

New for 2024 is extended government funded hours for working parents from 9 months to 3 years. This is in addition to the already existing 15 government funded hours for all 3-year-olds, and enhanced 15 hours for eligible working parents.

From September 2025, all eligible working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3-years-old can access 30 hours free childcare per week for 38 weeks of the year, which is a further 570 hours, totaling 1140 hours per year.

What Funding is available?

There are several different entitlements available, which have different eligibility criteria. These are set out below:

Working parent's entitlement:

Child's age: From the term after they turn 9 months until they start school

Eligibility: For working parents, please see <https://www.gov.uk/check-eligible-free-childcare-if-youre-working>

What you can receive: 15 hours per week over 38 weeks of the year. Can be combined with the universal entitlement for 3- and 4-year-olds to make up 30 hours.

For parents of 2-year-olds receiving some additional forms of government support:

Child's age: From the term after they turn 2- years-old

Eligibility and how to apply: Please see: <https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/children-and-families/early-years-and-childcare/childcare-funding/15-hours-funded-childcare-for-2-year-olds>

What you can receive: 15 hours per week over 38 weeks of the year.

Universal entitlement for 3- and 4-year-olds

Child's age: From the term after they turn 3-years old through to starting school

Eligibility: **All** 3- and 4-year-olds are eligible

What you can receive: 15 hours per week over 38 weeks of the year. Can be combined with the working parent's entitlement to make up 30 hours.

When do I need to apply?

You will be able to take up your free hours from the term after your child meets all the eligibility criteria for the entitlement you are applying for. These terms begin on 1st January, 1st April and 1st September.

You need to apply on <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-childcare-if-youre-working> before the deadline to receive a code for free childcare to give to your childcare provider.

The deadline is the day before the new term begins, but we encourage you to apply earlier and recommend applying at least 6 weeks before the deadline.

When you would like to use your entitlements from: 1 January
The deadline to apply for a code: 31 December

When you would like to use your entitlements from: 1 April
The deadline to apply for a code: 31 March

When you would like to use your entitlements from: 1 September
The deadline to apply for a code: 31 August

If you do not apply by the deadline, you will not be able to take up your entitlements in that term.

When will I find out if I am eligible?

When you apply you may find out if you're eligible straight away, but it can take longer if you need to provide further information. Once your application has been approved, you'll get a code for free childcare.

What happens once I receive my code?

Speak to the Nursery Manager and the nursery will send home a Peterborough City Council funding form for you to return to the nursery once completed. This will include a section for you to write your code down, alongside your National Insurance Number and your child's details. The form requires the Nursery Manager to have proof of identification of each child, this can be a birth certificate or passport. Without this proof of age, the nursery cannot authorise the form and funding will not be issued. The nursery will then check the code on the funding portal.

Do I need to reconfirm my code, will I be reminded?

Yes, you will need to reconfirm your eligibility every 3 months. You will receive a reminder:

- When your reconfirmation window opens
- A week before your reconfirmation deadline
- And on your reconfirmation deadline.

This message will come from HMRC. Please remember to make sure that your details are up to date.

Does the nursery check my eligibility each term?

Yes. The nursery will check all funding eligibility on our funding portal before the end of each term.

How is the funding offered at Daisy Chain and how many hours will I be entitled to?

At Daisy Chain the funding entitlement is offered in two ways; 'Stretched' and 'Term time only'. Please note that we only offer a limited number of term time only places.

The funding entitlement for the year is either:

- 570 hours for 9month+ to 3 years working entitlement, 2 years funding for parents receiving additional support from the government and for the universal entitlement for 3- & 4-year-olds
- An extra 570 hours a year is available for 3–4-year-old working entitlement funding.

If you are accessing your funding term time only you will be entitled to 15 hours or 30 hours term time only over 38 weeks of the year.

If you are accessing your funding 'stretched', fewer hours can be taken over more weeks:

- If your child starts in the Autumn term (September to December) you will be entitled to 10.96 hours or 21.92 hours over 52 weeks of the year.
- If your child starts in the Spring term (January to March) you will be entitled to 10.29 hours or 20.57 hours a week for both the Spring and Summer term.
- If your child starts in the Summer term (April-August) you will be entitled to 8.86 or 17.73 hours a week for the Summer term.
- Please note if you start in the Spring or Summer term once the new academic year starts (the following September) you will be entitled to the 10.96 or 21.92 hours over the next 52 weeks of the year.

The funding will be claimed as below:

Autumn Term (14 weeks)	210 or 420 hours (depending on eligibility)
Spring Term (11 weeks)	165 or 330 hours (depending on eligibility)
Summer Term (13 weeks)	195 or 390 hours (depending on eligibility)

If we claim your funding 'stretched' over the academic year we will need to overclaim in the Autumn and Spring term to ensure we have enough funding for the Summer term. This is called 'banked hours'. Please see the table below to show how we bank the hours:

Term	Term time maximum hours paid	Delivered hours over stretched weeks	Banked or used hours	Hours balance
Autumn	210	10.96 hours x 17 weeks = 186.32	210 – 186.32 = 23.68 funded hours surplus to delivery	+23.68
Spring	165	10.96 x 13 weeks = 142.48	165 – 142.48 = 22.52 funded hours surplus to delivery	+46.2
Summer	195	10.96 x 22 weeks = 241.12	195 – 241.12 = - 46.12 less than delivered	+0.008

Can I claim funding at Daisy Chain and another setting?

Yes, funding can be split between 2 settings. However, this will need to be agreed by the Manager and the other setting. The funding needs to be claimed term time only in both settings. We unfortunately now can't split stretched funding.

Can I change my child's hours?

Yes, hours can be changed during the year. Please note that depending on the funding claimed you may not be able to access your full funding entitlement if hours are changed.

Can I access less funding than the maximum entitlement?

Yes, parents don't need to use their full funding entitlement.

What happens if I leave the nursery?

Four weeks' notice needs to be given for all places at Daisy Chain Nursery, including funded only places. If a child who was accessing stretched hours with us left and went to a new setting, then there may be less funding per week available to claim in the new setting. When we claim for our stretched hour funding, we overclaim in the Autumn and Spring term to 'bank' hours to use in the Summer term (please see table above for more information). Settings can't transfer funding between each other.

How will the nursery communicate with me how much my fees will be with the funding deduction?

The nursery will send out a funding fee statement which will explain how the funding is calculated and what your fees will be for the remainder of the academic year. This will be re-calculated each academic year. The fees will be worked out on a pro-rata basis to give you a consistent monthly figure.

Please note that we have a fee increase each April, and therefore the fee increase percentage will be added as adjustments to the monthly payments from April-August, once the fee increase percentage has been finalised.

Can I change from term time only to stretched and vice versa during the year?

No. You can only change the way you claim your funding in September, with agreement from the nursery manager.

Will I have any additional charges?

Currently food isn't included in the 3- & 4-year-old funding at Daisy Chain. Parents have the option to either bring in snacks and a packed lunch or to pay the additional meal charge:

Morning (8am-1pm)	Afternoon (1-6pm)	All day (8am-6pm)
£5.00	£3.50	£7.00

What is Early Years Pupil Premium?

The government introduced an Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) for qualifying children accessing their funded entitlements. The purpose of this funding is to support settings in narrowing the attainment gap between the least and most deprived families in the country. EYPP is paid at a national rate of £1.00 per funded hour, per child, on top of their funding hourly rate. This equates to an additional £570.00 for a child receiving the full 570-hour entitlement.

There are no conditions from the government about how additional income generated by EYPP is spent. However, it is the expectation that providers should demonstrate commitment to improving the quality of early years provision for their disadvantaged children. Providers will be held to account for the quality of the early years education that they provide to disadvantaged children through Ofsted inspection.

There is a section on the funding form which eligible families can fill out so the nursery can check on their funding portal whether a child will qualify for EYPP.