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Early Years Funding - Information for Parents

Your child will be eligible for Early Years Funding from next term. To help you understand how the scheme works, we have outlined the details below.

Early Years Funding Schemes

Your child may be entitled to one of the following:

1. Universal Funding (15 hours) - All 3-4-year-olds

All children aged 3 and 4 years are entitled to 15 hours of funded early education per week, for 38 weeks of the year (a total of 570 hours).

2. Working Family Funding (from 9 months+)

Eligible working families may be entitled to:

- 30 hours per week for children aged 9 months to 2 years
- 30 hours per week for children aged 3-4 years

To be eligible, families must meet the government's criteria, which usually includes:

- Each parent (or the sole parent in a single-parent household) earning at least the minimum required income
- Earning less than £100,000 per year per parent

You can check your eligibility and apply via

www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

When Funding Starts

Funding begins from the term after your child reaches the eligible age:

- Spring term (January) - for children who turn eligible age between 1 September and 31 December
- Summer term (April) - for children who turn eligible age between 1 January and 31 March
- Autumn term (September) - for children who turn eligible age between 1 April and 31 August

We recommend applying in good time before the start of the next term to ensure funding can be accessed without delay.

Extended (30 Hours) Funding

You can apply for the extended funding (30 hours) up to 90 days before your child becomes eligible.

You must reconfirm your eligibility every 3 months via HMRC. If you do not reconfirm, you may enter a grace period, after which funding will stop.

Using Your Funding at Toad Hall Nursery

You can:

- Use your funded hours with up to three providers
- Change your funding pattern each term (subject to availability)

At Toad Hall Nursery:

- Funding is offered in sessions (e.g. 10 am-1 pm and 1 pm-4 pm)
- Funded places and extended hours are subject to availability and allocated on a first-come, first-served basis

We also offer some flexibility in how hours are used across the week; however, this is based on our nursery availability and operational requirements.

Consumables and meals are not included in the funding, but parents may choose to:

- Pay for these, or
- Provide their own (where applicable)

We ask you to provide a term's notice should you wish to opt in or out of these charges.

Nursery Invoices

Your funding will be calculated based on the information you provide and will be clearly shown on your invoice.

- Any additional hours and consumables will be charged
- We aim to spread costs evenly across 12 months where possible
- Full fees apply during non-funded weeks (e.g. school holidays) for all-year-round attendance

Registering for Funding

- Universal funding (15 hours) will automatically begin the term after your child turns 3
- For working family funding (including under 3s), you will need to:
 - Apply online
 - Provide your eligibility code
 - Complete a parent declaration form
 - Provide your child's birth certificate or passport for verification

Please ensure all information is accurate, as claims may be audited.

Attendance Expectations

Once funding is in place, it is important that your child attends their allocated sessions regularly.

If your child is absent, you must inform the nursery by 10am. If we do not receive notification, we will contact you. This is a safeguarding requirement.

Important Information

Funded places are limited, particularly for extended hours.

Please inform us as soon as possible if you are eligible, so we can allocate sessions accordingly.

We hope you find this information helpful. If you have any questions or would like support with your application, please do not hesitate to contact us.