



wise owls
childcare

3-YEAR OLD CHILDCARE FUNDING EXPLAINED

We know that many parents look forward to the time when they can claim childcare funding for their 3 year old but funding doesn't necessarily start from the day your child turns 3. Here is a factsheet on how the childcare funding works and when you can expect to start receiving funding from the government.

Childcare funding is provided by the government for either 15 hours or 30 hours of care depending on your personal circumstances.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR 15 AND 30 HOURS FUNDING?

All 3 to 4-year-olds in England can get 570 free hours per year through government funding. Some families may receive 1140 hours free childcare depending on your eligibility. You can check your eligibility here: <https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare>

DOES THIS MEAN MY CHILDCARE WILL BE FREE?

No, our nursery is open 51 weeks of the year and government funding is not available all year round, so you will receive a deduction of 47.5 hours or 95 hours a month. There are still fees to pay outside of those funded hours plus a consumable fee that covers meals and incidentals.

DO I NEED TO BOOK A MINIMUM NUMBER OF SESSIONS?

There is a minimum booking requirement of 2 full days if you are claiming (15 hours) 570 hours funding and 3 full days if you are claiming (30 hours) 1140 hours funding.

If you would like to change your child's booking to receive your full funding allocation, please contact our bookings team at admin@wiseowlschildcare.co.uk ensuring you give 2 months' notice for any changes to your child's booking.

You may opt to use your funding at a different setting, if this is the case then full fees are payable or you can split the funding between the two childcare settings. Please contact our office team if you will take this option.

WHEN WILL MY FUNDING START?

This depends on when your child turns 3. The local authority has three funding cycles. If your child's birthday falls between:

- 1st of January – 31st of March your funding will begin in **May**
- 1st April -31st August, your funding will commence from **September**
- 1st September -31st December your funding will apply from **January**

WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?

To find out if you are eligible and to apply for this funding, you must obtain a Reference Code directly from HMRC and send this to us by the due date provided in your funding letter. We will provide you with the necessary forms to complete and sign in advance of claiming funding. It is very important that these forms are completed and returned by the due date or we will not be able to make a claim and full fees will be payable. You can check your eligibility here: <https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare> and if you are eligible please keep a note of the code as you will need to put it on the funding forms.

ANY QUESTIONS? PLEASE EMAIL [INFO@WISEOWLSCHILDCARE.CO.UK](mailto:info@wiseowlschildcare.co.uk)