



Elmscot

Group

TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE MORE

FEES AND FUNDING SUMMER 2026



HELP TOWARDS CHILDCARE COSTS

Paying for childcare has been made more accessible in recent years.

How that looks is different for every family and depends on multiple factors from the age of your child and your family's circumstances.

We accept multiple methods of payment for your child's fees.

Direct debit – Bank transfer – Card payment – Childcare vouchers – Early Years Funding – Tax Free Childcare

Please visit: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/whats-new> to see if you meet the criteria for any of the below:

9 month funding – 30 hours per week over 38 weeks

2 Year FRAS funding – 15 hours per week over 38 weeks

2 Year working parent funding – 30 hours per week over 38 weeks

3 year universal funding – ALL 3 year olds are eligible for 15 hours of universal funding the term after they turn 3. This is not means tested.

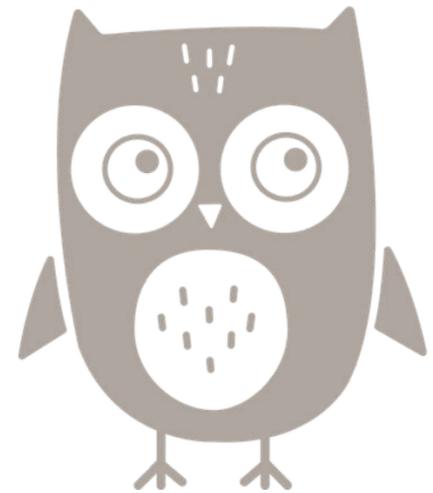
3 year extended funding – 15 hours per week over 38 weeks (this is what makes up the universal hours above to 30)

Tax free childcare – up to £2000 per year towards the cost of your fees

Universal Credit childcare – Claim back up to 85% of eligible childcare costs

Please note from September 2025, all children under working parent funding will be eligible for 30 hours of childcare.

This doubles their previous eligibility.



3/4 YEAR OLD UNIVERSAL FUNDING

15 hours of funded childcare per week is available to families in England with eligible children aged 3-4 years.

This is 15 funded hours over 38 term weeks = 570 hours per year.

This funding is **NOT** means tested and is available to all children the term after they turn 3. You do not require a funding code for this funding type, but we do require a completed funding form to enable us to submit your claim for you with the local authority. Please do look out for your funding form each term.

Children born between:	Are eligible from:
1st April and 31st August	1st September (Autumn term)
1st September and 31st December	1st January (Spring term)
1st January and 31st March	1st April (Summer term)



WORKING PARENT FUNDING

If you live and work in England you may be entitled to 30 hours funded childcare support from the term after your child turns 9 months old, until they start school. For April 2025, your child will have a birthday of 30th June 2025 or before.

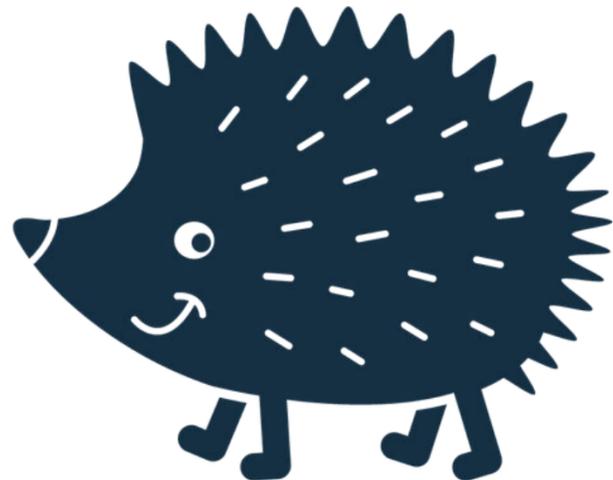
From the term after your child's 3rd birthday, this can be combined with the 15 hour entitlement for all 3 and 4 year olds to make up 30 hours of funded support over 38 weeks of the year.

You can usually get funded childcare for working parents if you (and your partner, if you have one) are:

- in work or starting a new job
- on sick leave or annual leave
- on shared parental, maternity, paternity or adoption leave

The amount of funded childcare you can get depends on:

- your child's age and circumstances
- your income (and your partner's income, if you have one)
- your immigration status



YOUR EARNINGS

Working parent funding

Over the next 3 months you and your partner (if you have one) must each expect to earn at least:

- £2,539.68 before tax if you're aged 21 or over (equivalent to £195.36 per week)
- £2,080 before tax if you're aged 18 to 20 (equivalent to £160 per week)
- £1,570.40 before tax if you're under 18 or an apprentice (equivalent to £120.80 per week)

This is equivalent to the National Minimum Wage or Living Wage for 16 hours a week, on average.



You can earn up to £100,000 adjusted net income per year and be eligible. If you or your partner have an expected adjusted net income over £100,000 in the current tax year, you will not be eligible.

You can use an average of how much you expect to earn over the current tax year if:

- you work throughout the year but do not get paid regularly
- you're self-employed and do not expect to earn enough in the next 3 months

If you're not currently working you may still be eligible if your partner is working, and you are on carer's leave or if you get any of the following:

- Incapacity Benefit
- Severe Disablement Allowance
- Carer's Allowance
- Limited Capability for Work Benefit
- Contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance

HOW TO APPLY

Once you have checked your eligibility, please go to: <https://www.gov.uk/sign-in-childcare-account> and set up your gateway account. You will need to provide identification and supporting documents such as passport/national insurance number for yourself and your partner (if you have one).

Once you have a gateway account you will then be able to apply for your childcare code. It is this code that is required to enable nursery to claim funding on your behalf with the local authority.

You will also gain access to your tax free childcare within this portal which enables you to receive a 20% top up from HMRC. You simply pay 80% of your invoice value into your tax free childcare account and HMRC will top up the difference up to £2000 per annum per child. You then send the full invoice total to nursery by selecting us as a payee. You can access your tax free account once activated, even if you are not eligible for funding to start until the following term.

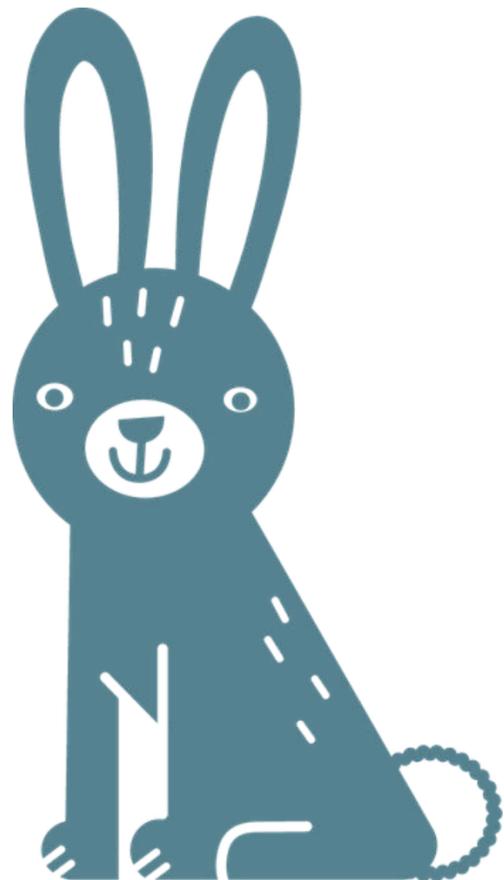


WHEN TO APPLY

As per HMRC guidelines, there are cut off dates when it comes to having a valid code for a term. If you miss the deadline it will be the following term that you would fall eligible to claim. This is not a nursery choice, this is a HMRC deadline.

These dates are as below.

Term:	Latest start date for funding code (working parents):
Autumn	31st August
Spring	31st December
Summer	31st March



Please note when returning from maternity leave, you can not apply for funding until 31 days before your return. We have seen parents miss out if they do not factor in the funding dates with their return to work. It would then be the following term before you could receive funding.

2 YEAR OLD FUNDING - FAMILIES REQUIRING ADDITIONAL SUPPORT (FRAS).

Your 2-year-old can get funded early learning if you live in England and receive some additional forms of support. This includes support such as Jobseeker's allowance, Universal Credit and Tax Credit, but also for those children who are in receipt of DLA or are a looked after child/children under an Adoption order

This is 15 hours per week over 38 term weeks = 570 hours per year.

Giving your 2-year-old a head start in learning can be great for their future. Early years education can help little ones make friends and play, developing their social and practical skills in a safe place that works alongside what you do at home. This early start can set your child up for a lifetime of learning and success.

With this type of funding, you require a code or "ticket" from the local authority. Please note, that this must be from the local authority under which the nursery is located. Please contact the nursery if you are unsure.

Once you have your code or ticket, please complete your funding form and upload this information to enable us to claim for you.



 <p>Welcome to Trafford Pay your Council Tax, view your bill online, and get help with other Council Tax queries. Trafford Council</p>	 <p>Live Well Cheshire East Directory for health, wellbeing, social care, family support, SEND, and local services in Cheshire East to live well and stay independent. cheshireeast.gov.uk</p>	<p>Home Information for residents, businesses, and visitors of west Cheshire Cheshire West and Chester Council</p>
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HOW WILL FUNDING BE APPLIED TO MY BOOKING?

Funding is allocated as term time equivalent—38 weeks. As we are open for 51 weeks, your funding is “stretched” to cover the full year and ensure you have funding throughout the unfunded weeks.

15 hours funding

15 hours x 38 funding weeks = 570 hours available

570 hours divided by 12 months = 47.5 hours per month (11.17 hours per week)

30 hours funding

30 hours x 38 funding weeks = 1140 hours available

1140 hours divided by 12 months = 95 hours per month (22.34 hours per week)

If you attend 2 days per week, you will be capped at 20 hours funding as we are only able to apply a maximum of 10 hours per day of funding.

This will be 20 hours x 51 weeks / 12 months = 85 hours per month.





ENHANCED BOOKING CHARGE

Funded hours cover teaching time only; they do not include meals, snacks, consumables, or enhanced activities. These additional expenses are billed separately under the "enhanced booking charge," which is linked to the funded hours only and invoiced monthly. For parents who pay the full session fee before funding, all these items are included in the session price.

Whilst funding is designed to provide basic provisions and ensure a minimum level of care and support for children, the enhanced offerings are what truly distinguish Elmscot Day Nursery. Our committed team goes beyond these basic needs, offering children and families an exceptional start to their journey.

The cost is specific to each setting and reflects the unique cost structure of that facility before accounting for funding.

Everything you see at the nursery—including enhanced learning resources, daily meals and snacks, and extra-curricular activities—comes from these budgets. This distinction is made clear to differentiate between what is included with the allocated funding and what is not.

Elmscot is committed to delivering high-quality childcare and nurturing environments. The enhanced booking charge ensures that parents can access government funding while maintaining the sustainability of our facilities. By paying this charge, parents can continue to benefit from the following key areas:

Meals and snacks

At Elmscot Day Nursery, our chef prepares delicious meals and snacks for the children. Our thoughtfully crafted menu is designed to promote nutritious eating habits while accommodating various dietary requirements and allergy needs. We are accoladed for our commitment to using sustainable suppliers and quality produce.

Throughout the day, we serve:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Snacks
- Tea

£1.20 per funded hour

Consumables

Consumables in the nursery refer to items that are utilized during a child's time at the facility and must be replaced or allocated to a specific child.

The funding does not cover the following consumables:

- Nappies
- Wipes
- Nappy creams
- Sun cream
- Laundered bedding for nap time
- Medications such as Calpol
- Sanitary and hygiene products such as gloves/aprons

70p per funded hour

Enhanced activities

Enhanced provision includes the following offerings:

- Forest school sessions
- Nursery allotment sessions
- Trips in the community
- Stay and play sessions
- Specialised classes such as yoga/music/sports
- Celebrations and activities for various world, religious, and cultural events
- Mother's and Father's Day events
- Graduation ceremonies
- Sensory activities
- Access to Parentzone for updates on your child's learning and development

£1.10 per funded hour

This charge will show on your invoice multiplied by the hours you are accessing. For those using the full entitlement this would be £285 per month.

If you find yourself unable or unwilling to pay this charge, please reach out to your nursery manager for assistance.

WHAT MAKES YOUR JOURNEY AT POPPIES A SPECIAL ONE?

At Poppies, our mission is to offer children and their families the highest quality childcare through our dedicated and highly skilled team.

Every day presents a new learning opportunity at Poppies. Our staff's understanding of their key children enables them to design activities tailored to each child's unique interests and developmental steps. This personalized approach allows us to monitor individual progress and ensure that all milestones are met.

We consider ourselves fortunate to be situated in the heart of the Knutsford community, which opens doors for adventures to Tatton Park, forest school sessions at The Heath, and excursions to the duck pond and library. Train trips to Delamere Forest for The Gruffalo trail are also a highlight for our children.

We operate two turtle buses that are utilized weekly across all age groups, giving our children access to the local community. Additionally, we have our very own Forest School leader, Mark, who visits the nursery each week, providing age-appropriate outdoor activities for all children.

Throughout the week, we offer various extracurricular activities such as Tiny Talk for babies and Rhythm Time for toddlers. We emphasize the importance of growing our own fruits and vegetables, which we incorporate into our meals. This experience not only enriches our nursery environment but also provides numerous learning opportunities. Our large planters enable us to maintain vegetable patches and herb gardens as part of our daily practice.

We thrive on involving our families, fostering strong partnerships that even include grandparents. Parents are invited to participate in themed forest school sessions, and we see fantastic attendance at our stay-and-play sessions, which celebrate various themes throughout the year.

None of this would be achievable without our skilled staff team, which includes qualified teachers, early years practitioners, and apprentices. Our team is trained in Emotional Literacy Support (ELSA) to assist children with their emotional development and has experience supporting children and families with additional needs. We continuously invest in our staff's professional growth, offering training opportunities to further their qualifications.

Our skilled kitchen team prepares freshly cooked meals for the children, accommodating allergy and dietary needs. Additionally, our in-house housekeeper ensures that our nursery remains impeccably clean.

We show our gratitude for our amazing staff with treats such as breakfast sandwiches, Christmas buffets, and bowling outings. Regular amenities in the staff room, like hot chocolate stations, Valentine's treats, and a toasty maker, promote well-being and create a positive working environment.

FUNDING LOOP AND FUNDING FORMS

In order to claim funding for a parent we have to submit a funding form. These are sent to parents via Funding Loop and prefills the information we have on your child's booking for the upcoming term. Without a completed form, we are not able to claim your funding for you. Funding is audited periodically by the local authority.

Funding is based around a "headcount date". This is a date each term which is the cut off for a child to be in attendance and also the date in which the form takes a "snapshot" of a child's booking. If your booking does not look correct on your form, please let the nursery know so we can amend our side.

You may receive a funding form, but not be eligible. That is absolutely fine, just let the nursery know and we will make note of that for you. As all children fall eligible the term after they turn 3, you will need to complete a form at this point to receive your 15 hours funding.

With the influx of the new funding, we have an unprecedented volume of administration required to capture all parents eligible and ensure they receive what they are entitled to. Please do assist in completing your form at your earliest convenience or let us know you are not eligible.

UNIVERSAL CREDIT CHILDCARE



Universal Credit can help with the costs of childcare. You may be able to claim up to 85% of your registered childcare costs if you're eligible for Universal Credit, in paid work or due to start a job in the next month.

You have to pay for your childcare costs yourself unless you are eligible for an initial up-front childcare cost payment. You then report them through your Universal Credit account and will be paid some of the money back in your next Universal Credit payment. You can get up to 85% of childcare costs paid back to you. The maximum amount for each assessment period is:

- £1,031.88 for one child
- £1,768.94 for 2 or more children

You will only get the money back with Universal Credit after the childcare actually happens.

You usually report your childcare costs in your online Universal Credit account. You can do this when you first make a claim, or at any point in your claim.

You need to:

- provide proof of which childcare provider you use. This must be with Ofsted 'registered' childcare providers.
- tell Universal Credit the dates of childcare you paid for, how much you paid and the date you made the payment
- provide proof of payment

Report your childcare costs as soon as possible after paying them. If you leave it for longer than 2 assessment periods, you might not get the money back.

FURTHER QUESTIONS?

We are a small team here at Elmscot and do everything to help make what can be a confusing process as easy as we can for you.

If you have any questions regarding what support you may be entitled to, please contact finance directly on finance@elmscot.co.uk and we will happily assist.



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