



PARENTAL GUIDE TO FUNDING – SEPTEMBER 2025

Early Years Funding is a national scheme administered by local authorities in England, which offers funded childcare hours with an Ofsted registered provider to eligible families. This guide will help explain the new and existing funding options, how they work at My Sunshine, and other important information you need to know.

Nursery Education Funding is government-funded childcare support offered for 38 weeks of the year. This can be delivered in full over 38 weeks or stretched over additional weeks, with a maximum of 10 hours per day claimable.

Stretched Funding

Most official information states children will receive 15 or 30 funded hours per week, but this would be on a 38 week term time only basis. As My Sunshine operates for 51 weeks of the year, we “stretch” your child’s annual allocation of funded hours, so that your child will receive up to 11.18 or 22.40 hours per week, for the 51 weeks of the year that My Sunshine is open

Funding available

September 2025		Weekly Hours 38 Term Weeks	FUNDED HOURS TOTAL	FUNDED "STRETCHED" HOURS PER WEEK
Entitlement	Working Families	15 hours	570	11.20
		30 hours	1,140	22.40



HOW MANY HOURS WILL MY CHILD GET?

Children Aged 9 - 23 Months - Working Families

Working families can apply for this funding. If you are eligible for this type of funding, from September 2025 your child will receive 30 funded hours for the 38 weeks of term time, which equates to up to 22.40 hours per week for the 51 weeks My Sunshine is open.

Children Aged 2-3 Years - Working Families

Working families can apply for this funding. If you are eligible for this type of funding, from September 2025 your child will receive 30 funded hours for the 38 weeks of term time, which equates to up to 22.40 hours per week for the 51 weeks My Sunshine is open.

Children Aged 3-4 Years

Every child over 3 is entitled to 'universal' funding – 15 hours over a 38 week term only basis or up to 11.18 hours per week, for the 51 weeks that My Sunshine is open.

Working families can apply for 'extended' funding and, if you are eligible, you can claim up to 30 hours over a 38 week term only basis or up to 22.40 hours per week, for the 51 weeks that My Sunshine is open.

Supported 2 Year Old Funding

This is a different category of funding for 2 year olds, with different qualifying criteria - e.g. you receive some additional forms of government support. If you are eligible for this type of funding, your child will receive up to 15 hours for 38 term time weeks in the year, which equates to up to 11.18 hours per week, all year round over 51 weeks. You cannot use this type of funding alongside Working Families entitlement.

The government does not plan to increase the number of hours your child can receive using this funding in September 2025. Please speak to our Nursery Managers directly if you believe you are eligible for this type of funding.



FUNDED ONLY ATTENDANCE	11.20 Hours STRETCHED over 51 weeks	22.40 Hours STRETCHED over 51 weeks
<u>Mandatory Attendance</u>	Monday OR Friday (8.5 Hrs) Tuesday (2.45 Hrs)	Monday & Friday (19 Hrs) Tuesday (3.5 Hrs)

WHEN CAN I APPLY?

You can apply around three to four months before your child becomes eligible. You must apply and have received your eligibility code by the end of the previous term, to be eligible for the following term.

For example - to receive funding from 1st September, you must apply and have received your code by the 31st August. You don't need to apply for the universal funding for 3-4 year olds, we will automatically put the claim in for you.

Eligibility Criteria

If your child is born between:	They are eligible for a place from:
1 April and 31 August	1 September after reaching 9mths*, second or third birthday until statutory school age of 5
1 September and 31 December	1 January after reaching 9mths*, second or third birthday until statutory school age of 5
1 January and 31 March	1 April after reaching 9mths*, second or third birthday until statutory school age of 5

*Check government eligibility criteria regarding when you return to work

HOW DO I APPLY?

The Childcare Choices website can help you apply, and make sure that it is the best financial choice for you. You (and your partner if you have one) will need your NI number and a second document – your UK passport, P60 or recent payslip. If you need help or don't have access to the internet, you can call them on 0300 123 4097.

If you're eligible, you'll be given an 11 digit eligibility code. You need to reconfirm your eligibility every 3 months from the date you first apply - even if your child isn't using the hours yet! You should be reminded ahead of time and if your circumstances stay the same, it's a very quick process.



If you are applying for your code whilst on parental leave, the date you can receive the funding from is affected by the date you are returning to work

WHEN WILL THE FUNDING START?

Regardless of when you apply, most funding begins from the start of the academic term after the child's relevant birthday - January, April, or September – as long as we have received the eligibility code by the last day of the previous term.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

If your child already attends My Sunshine, we will contact you ahead of time to explain the process. If you're new to our nursery, you can use your child's funded hours with us – just let us know if you are eligible for the funding at the point of registration. We will also require the 11 digit code you received when you applied, as well as your NI number and your DOB.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS INVOLVED?

The fees will vary depending on how many sessions you would like your child to attend.

The funding is intended to cover the funded hours only. It is not intended to cover the cost of catering, non-food consumables, additional activities or additional hours outside of the funded hours.

To offer ease and convenience to all our families there are non-mandatory additional charges to cover all the elements not covered by the funding, providing a fully inclusive experience for your child. This is all detailed in the fee sheet.

However, if you are unwilling or unable to pay these charges, we will arrange to speak with you to discuss alternatives.



WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

If you plan for your child to claim funding at multiple settings, you must inform us to ensure you do not over claim your allowance. Each term you commit to a number of funded hours that your child will attend for, we cannot change this amount mid-term. Any 'lost' funded hours cannot be claimed, including for ad-hoc sessions. Different providers offer the hours in a variety of ways, which can be confusing! The My Sunshine team are available to answer any questions.

Useful Links

[Childcare Choices](#)
[Eligible 2 Year Olds Criteria](#)
[Apply for Tax-free Childcare](#)