

Early Education Funding FAQ's

What is the voluntary cost?

The voluntary cost covers food, non-food consumables such as cooking and baking costs, physical learning journals, wipes, nappy sacks and cream etc (please see fee sheet for further information and a wider description of what consumables we provide in our enhanced care provision). The voluntary activities costs covers trips, French classes and celebratory resources for gift making (please see fee sheet for further information and a wider description of what consumables we provide in our enhanced care provision).

Why is there a voluntary cost?

Government funding is not intended to cover the costs of meals, other consumables, additional hours or additional services. (Department for Education (2025). Early education and childcare (effective from 1 April 2025). [online] GOV.UK. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-education-and-childcare--2/early-education-and-childcare-effective-from-1-april-2025.>)

The consumables we provide go beyond the statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), offering enhanced learning experiences beyond the basic provision covered by the government funding. These carefully selected resources play a vital role in enriching your child's early education by fostering creativity, curiosity, and hands-on exploration. They contribute significantly to their cognitive, social, and emotional development, ensuring they have access to high quality materials that support their growth and learning journey. By investing in these additional resources, we create a stimulating and engaging environment where children can thrive, build confidence and develop essential skills for the future.

What if I don't want to pay the voluntary cost?

We will be able to provide you with our Non-Consumables Charge Alternatives Policy and Non-Consumables Food Policy, these policies detail what you will need to provide for your child during their nursery day.

What if I want to use the Early Education Funding and book additional contracted days?

You can use the Early Education Funding dependent on your eligibility and then you can book additional private paid hours.

What are my responsibilities?

- You are responsible for finding out if your child is eligible, you can do this by looking at www.childcarechoices.co.uk, if eligible you will be given a code. Once you have this code you will need to send it to us with your national insurance number.
- You are also responsible to ensure that you re-apply for your 30 hour funding every term, you should receive email reminders to renew your code end date, we always recommend setting your own reminder. Failure to do so may result in a loss of funding for the following term. Please be aware that Happy Days Nursery does not send reminders for this.
- You will need to sign a Parent Declaration Form every term to confirm that you are happy for us to make the funding claim.
- You will need to make sure that your child has a good attendance, too much absence can lead to your funding being taken away. If you plan to take a holiday which is more than 14 days, we may be unable to claim funding for that term as the local authority need to ensure that your child is making the most of their entitlement that has been claimed. If you have any questions about this, please contact us and we can discuss with the Local Authority for clarification for you.

What happens if I become ineligible?

There will be a grace period to enable you to retain a childcare place for a short period if you have become ineligible for the extended entitlement.

What does EYYP mean, and how will it benefit my child?

Early Years Pupil Premium is awarded to children whose parents meet a certain criterion (see the Parent Declaration Form). This will mean that we can claim a little more money for your child as well as the funding. This extra money will then be awarded to your child so that we can provide resources, training and any other material that will directly benefit your child.

My child receives DLA (Disability Living Allowance), can they receive any additional support?

If your child receives DLA we can apply for Disability Access Fund. The funds can be used, for example, to support providers in making reasonable adjustments to their settings and/or helping with building capacity, either for the child in question or for the benefit of all children attending the setting. We will need a copy of your DLA letter to apply for this.

Will my child need set agreed days?

You will be contracted to set days and these are non-transferable. Should you wish to change them permanently this will require a four-week notice period for additional private paid hours and a terms notice for Early Education Funding, subject to availability.

How do I pay for the voluntary cost?

You will be invoiced on an average basis. You will see the wording Early Education Funding; this means your free hours that you have chosen to take up.

If you wish to opt out of the voluntary consumable charges, please provide written notice within 14 days of receiving the fee sheet, which outlines our charges and the reasons behind them. To help us maintain financial stability and plan effectively, we kindly ask for at least one terms notice if you choose to opt out of any voluntary charges for food, non-food consumables, or activity costs.

Example of a terms notice: If you choose to opt out of voluntary charges at the start of the summer term (April), you will need to provide notice before the end of the spring term (March). This means your opt-out request would take effect from the Autumn term (September), ensuring we have adequate time to adjust our planning and resources.

Do I have to take up all of my Early Education Funding entitlement?

No. You can take as many or as little of these free hours as you would like, subject to eligibility. Happy Days offers funding in blocks of 5 or 10 hours

Can I share the 30 hours funding between settings?

Yes, you can share the funding between settings. You will need to give both settings your eligibility code and decide who applies for the universal hours and who has the extended hours.

What happens if I am not eligible for the 30 hours funding?

You may still be entitled to the 15 hours Early Education Funding.

When do I make the first application?

Child born between:	Entitlement begins:
1st January to 31st March	April (Summer term)
1st April to 31st August	September (Autumn term)
1st September to 31st December	January (Spring term)

What happens if I have a complaint about the funding?

We ask that you contact Management first to discuss this, we can then seek guidance from the Local Authority for further assistance. Happy Days Nursery works closely with Warwickshire Early Years to ensure we are compliant with the Statutory Guidance for Early education and childcare.