

Alphabet House Nursery

Funding Guide

An easy guide to making the most
of government funding



Alphabet House Funding

We understand that navigating government funding for childcare can be confusing, so we've created this guide to make it simple and easy to understand. Inside, you'll find clear explanations of the different funding options available, how you can use them, and what they cover. We'll also explain non-funded and stretched hours, any additional costs, and how to apply. Plus, we've included answers to some frequently asked questions to help you feel confident in making the best choices for your child's care.



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Government Funding Explained



From April 2024, nurseries are required to clearly outline the difference between government-funded sessions and any additional charges. At Alphabet House, we are committed to providing outstanding care and early education for your child. The government funding is designed to cover the cost of basic care, ensuring all children have access to quality early years education.

To enhance your child's experience, we offer additional services and resources that go beyond the basic provision, such as extra activities, specialist sessions, and meal options. These are optional, and you can choose to opt out if you prefer. Our goal is to provide flexible, high-quality care that works for your family.

What government funding covers

Government funding is designed to support families by covering the basic costs of early years education. At Alphabet House, this means your child will receive high-quality care in a safe, stimulating environment that encourages learning and development.

Funded hours include:

- A place in our nursery during agreed funded session times
- A safe and nurturing learning environment
- Access to age-appropriate educational activities that follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework
- A staffing level that meets the minimum government ratios

While funding covers these essential aspects of the EYFS, it does not include extras such as meals, specialist activities, or enhanced services. These enhancements are available separately to enrich your child's nursery experience.



What's outside of the scope of government funding

We believe in providing every child with the highest standard of care, learning, and development. To achieve this, we offer a range of enhancements that go beyond the funded provision, ensuring that your child receives the best possible early years experience.

These enhancements include:

- **Nutritious meals and snacks** – carefully planned to support your child's growth and development throughout the day
- **Specialist sessions** – engaging activities such as music, movement, cooking, and language classes that enrich your child's learning through play and creativity
- **Premium resources** – high-quality learning materials, waterproof clothing for outdoor play, and specialist equipment to enhance your child's learning experience
- **Trips and outings** – enriching experiences that take learning beyond the nursery setting
- **Nursery in a Box** – our comprehensive system for tracking your child's development, keeping you updated on their daily experiences, learning progress (in line with the EYFS framework), meals, sleep, and nappies
- **Parties and celebrations** – special events to celebrate birthdays, cultural festivities, and seasonal occasions, making nursery life even more exciting
- **Parental support** – guidance and resources to help families navigate early childhood development, from sleep routines to learning milestones
- **Outdoor learning & Forest Schools** - held in our own dedicated forest space and allotment, allowing children to explore nature, develop problem-solving skills, and build confidence in an inspiring outdoor setting

These elements are a fundamental part of the exceptional care we provide, ensuring that every child receives the attention, support, and experiences they deserve.

However, in line with government guidelines, parents do have the option to decline certain additional services. If you have any questions, we are always happy to discuss how we can best support your family's needs.

What are my options?

At Alphabet House, we want to offer flexibility while ensuring your child receives the best possible care. You have two options available:

Enhanced Care (Current Service)

This is the service your child is currently receiving. With this option, your child benefits from high-quality early years education, enriched with additional activities both indoors and outdoors, nutritious meals, specialist sessions, and premium resources. These enriching experiences are designed to support your child's development in every area. To continue providing this level of care, we ask for your contribution to cover the cost of consumables such as meals, nappies, and resources that are part of the enhanced care experience.

Opt Out of Enhanced Care

If you decide to opt out, your child will still receive the government-funded hours of education, but without access to the enhanced care features such as meals, enriching activities, and premium resources. You will need to provide all consumables, including meals, nappies, and extra clothes. The funded hours will be scheduled according to our availability, and we will be happy to discuss how we can best meet your child's needs within this arrangement.

Fees and Funding

While the government funding is a valuable contribution towards childcare fees, it only covers a set number of hours and doesn't include all the essential extras that make Alphabet House such a unique and enriching environment. To ensure we provide your child with the highest level of care and learning, we kindly ask for your contribution towards these additional costs, along with the remaining hours of care.

Here's what to expect

At Alphabet House, we're dedicated to giving your child the best care possible. Below, you'll find the fees to expect, covering both funded and non-funded hours, along with any additional services we offer.

Funded hours

15 hours or 30 hours, which are allocated per session, per full day or per week.

Non-funded hours

Additional hours that cover the rest of your child's time in nursery.

Additional & extras

This is charged per session to help cover the cost of any additional services, consumables, or enhanced care your child may receive.

Food Charges

Any additional charges for food consumed during funded sessions

Non-food Consumables

This is an additional charge for any non food items consumed during a funded session. eg, Nappies

How we allocate your funding

We want to ensure that you can make the most of the government funding available to support your child's education and development. Depending on the funding option your child qualifies for, the allocation of hours can vary. Below, we've outlined how the 15 and 30-hour funding is distributed and how we structure it to best meet your child's needs throughout the year.

15 Hours Funding

If your child qualifies for the 15 hours of government funding, you'll be able to use 15 hours per week during term time, covering 38 weeks of the year. This gives your child the opportunity to receive high-quality care and education throughout the academic terms.

30 Hours Funding

For those eligible for the 30-hour funding, we distribute it across 51 weeks, which works out to exactly 22.35 hours per week. To maximize the benefits of this funding, we offer additional sessions that complement the funded hours, ensuring your child experiences a well-rounded and enriching education all year long.

Non-Funded Hours

In addition to the government funding, we understand that every family has unique needs when it comes to childcare schedules. To support this, we offer a variety of non-funded sessions that can be tailored to fit your family's schedule. These sessions are designed to complement the funded hours and ensure your child receives consistent care, regardless of their funding entitlement.

For specific pricing and availability of non-funded sessions, please feel free to contact our Nursery Manager, who will be happy to discuss the options that work best for you and your child.

Applying for Funding

Applying for government-funded childcare can seem complex, but we're here to make the process as straightforward as possible. Below, we've outlined the steps to help you navigate the application, ensuring your child receives the support they're entitled to.

When to apply

The timing of when your child can access the 15 or 30 hours of government funding is based on their birthdate, so it's essential to plan ahead. For those eligible for Working Family Funding, you will need to apply online and obtain an eligibility code to ensure your child can benefit from the funding

Important reminder

Be sure to log into your HMRC childcare account every three months to confirm your eligibility for Working Family Funding. If you miss this step, you could lose your funding for the upcoming term, which means you'll be responsible for covering any additional hours beyond the basic 15 hours scheme at our standard rate.

Universal funded childcare	
A child turning 3 between:	When to apply
September 1 to December 31	1st January
January 1 to March 31	1st April
April 1 to August 31	1st September

Working family funding		
A child turning 9 Months between:	When to apply	Hours available from
September 1 to December 31	Term starting on or after 1 January	The term before 1 January
January 1 to March 31	Term starting on or after 1 April	The term before 1 April
April 1 to August 31	Term starting on or after 1 September	The term before 1 September

How to Apply

Universal funded childcare for 3 and 4 year Old

For 3 and 4-year-olds, simply reach out to your nearest Alphabet House nursery. Our friendly team will guide you through the process and ask for your child's birth certificate or passport as proof of eligibility—it's that easy!

For eligible 2-year-olds receiving government support

All you'll need is written confirmation from your local authority first. Once you have it, just provide it to our nursery manager, and if eligible, your funding will begin the term after your child turns 2 years old.

Information provided by Gov.uk

All funding information provided in this guide is based on official government guidelines. For the most accurate and up-to-date details, we recommend visiting [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk), where you can find comprehensive information on eligibility and application processes.

Working family funded childcare

Applying for working family-funded childcare might seem a bit daunting, but don't worry! By following the six simple steps below, you'll find the process straightforward and hassle-free.



Additional Notes

- **Separated Parents:** If you and your partner are separated, you'll need to decide between you who will apply for the funding. If only one of you has parental responsibility, that person will need to apply.
- **Reconfirmation Reminders:** For working family-funded childcare, HMRC typically sends reminders when it's time to reconfirm your eligibility. However, it's always a good idea to set up your own reminder to ensure you don't miss out on this valuable support towards childcare costs.

Additional and Extras

We're dedicated to providing a nurturing and enriching early years experience. Our enhanced service goes beyond basic funded hours, offering extra resources, engaging activities, and high-quality care to support your child's development. Here's what's included to help them thrive.

For your child

Enrichment Activities

From yoga and STEM to cooking and creative play, our fun daily sessions are designed to inspire, build confidence, and support your child's development. Ask your nursery manager for the latest timetable!

Parties&Events

Fun celebrations throughout the year to make special days even more memorable.

Staff Training

Our staff regularly undergo additional, professional development to staying ahead of the latest childcare practices, ensuring your child receives the highest level of care and support at all times. With increased ratios of qualified staff.

Outdoor play

With access to our Forest School, local allotment and on-site outdoor space your child will enjoy hands-on learning in nature, promoting exploration and development.

Enhanced Development

Our tailored activities focus on key areas like language, social skills, and physical development, ensuring your child receives the support they need to thrive and grow in every aspect of their early years.

The benefits for you and your child

Nursery in a Box

Our Nursery in a Box system keeps you connected with your child's development throughout the day. It tracks their learning, play, eating habits, naps, and more—providing you with regular updates to ensure you're always in the loop.

Convenience

We provide all the essentials for your child, including equipment for activities like cooking and everyday items like nappies, so you don't have to worry about anything extra.

Flexibility

Enhanced care offers full flexibility in choosing session times that fit your schedule, making it easier to integrate your child's care into your routine.

Welcome Program & Emotional Coaching

Our Welcome Program uses a speech and language toolkit to identify early language challenges, providing targeted support. Emotional coaching helps your child settle in, boosting their confidence and well-being.

A typical day with enhanced care

Every day at our nursery is filled with enriching experiences that support your child's development, curiosity, and well-being. With our enhanced service, they'll enjoy a well-rounded mix of structured learning, creative play, and high-quality care. Here's what a typical day might look like:

Morning Routine

Arrival & Settling In – A warm and welcoming start with sensory play and free exploration.

Healthy Breakfast – A balanced meal to fuel their day whilst developing social skills.

Mid-Morning Activities

Engaging Learning Sessions – Interactive activities like cooking, music, or creative arts.

Outdoor Exploration – Time in our garden or local green spaces for fresh air and movement.

Lunchtime & Rest

Nutritious Lunch – A freshly prepared 2-course meal to support growth and well-being.

Quiet Time – A restful period tailored to your child's needs, whether that's a nap or a calm activity.

Afternoon Adventures

Enrichment Activities – More hands-on sessions such as storytelling, group play, or problem-solving games.

Active Play – A mix of indoor and outdoor movement activities to develop physical skills.

Afternoon Tea – A wholesome, balanced tea served in two courses to keep little tummies full and happy before home time.

End of the Day

Healthy Snack – A light bite before winding down.

Reflection Time – Sharing the day's experiences and getting ready to go home with big smiles!



FAQ's

Do I have to opt in for Enhanced Care?

No, opting in is your choice — but Enhanced Care gives your child access to all the extras we believe make a big difference: enrichment sessions, nappies, meals, and more. If you choose not to opt in, we'll discuss how to schedule your child's funded hours around our availability, and you'll need to provide all consumables and essentials yourself.

What does Enhanced Care include?

Enhanced Care covers things like enrichment activities (STEM, yoga, cooking), extra resources, nappies, meals, and even events and outings. It's designed to give your child the very best early years experience — and save you time and stress at home.

Can I change my mind after opting in or out?

Yes! We understand that circumstances change. Just speak with the Nursery Manager and we'll be happy to talk you through your options.

When should I apply for funded childcare?

Funding depends on your child's birthday, so it's important to apply ahead of time. You'll also need to apply for a code through HMRC if you're using the working family funding scheme.

How many funded hours will my child receive?

If you're eligible for 15 hours, they'll be spread across term time only. If you're receiving 30 hours, we'll stretch that funding over 51 weeks, which works out to just over 22 hours per week.

What if I need more hours than my funding covers?

No problem! We offer a variety of sessions to suit all kinds of schedules. Just chat with our Nursery Manager for a tailored plan and prices.

Contact Information

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