



All About Fees & Funding

September 2026

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Local Authority: Birmingham City Council & Worcester Council



Quinton
Est. 1991



Northfield
Est. 1996



Rubery
Est. 2001



Hagley
Est. 2016

A Guide to Government Funding - Our Way

Understanding childcare funding and its complexities can be challenging. Here's a guide to the current childcare funding structure since the change in September 2025. The table below outlines the number of term-time hours per week that your child is eligible for. We typically provide stretched funding to help distribute costs evenly throughout the year. Please keep in mind that certain criteria must be met to qualify for the funding; you can find the eligibility requirements later in our booklet.

September 2025		9 Months - 2 Years	2-3 Years	3-4 Years
Entitlement	All Parents	-	-	15 Hours
	Working Parents	30 Hours	30 Hours	30 Hours
	Families with special circumstances	-	15 Hours	

Other Ways to Keep the bills down

Get 20% off with Tax Free Childcare

You can receive up to £500 every three months (totaling up to £2,000 per year) for each child to assist with childcare expenses. This amount increases to £1,000 if a child has additional needs.

With Tax-Free Childcare, you will create an online childcare account for your child. For every £8 you deposit into this account, the Government will add £2 to help cover nursery costs. This can be utilized alongside your 30 funded hours if you qualify for both.

For more information and to apply, please follow the QR code below.



Our Fees

Government funding for childcare hours is helpful but limited, not covering essential supplies needed for high-quality care. To provide the best start for your child, these additional costs will be included in the daily rate.

Non- Funded Hours



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

Funded Hours



15 or 30 Hours which are allocated per day or per week. We stretch our funding over 51 weeks to 11.17 or 22.34 hours per week, all year round.

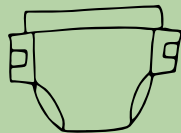
Combined Fees



This is what we will ask you to pay for everything together, monthly.

Essential supplies and materials are critical for a child's care and development. While government funding helps, it often doesn't cover all necessary resources for a strong start in life. Here are examples of potential additional costs:

Nappies



We supply Nappies for your needs. Instead of using wipes, we offer cotton wool and water to minimize sensitivity and allergies.

Meals, Drinks & Snacks



Our on-site cooks create fresh meals every day, covering breakfast, lunch, and tea time. Each meal is carefully crafted to ensure a balanced diet, with accommodations for diagnosed allergies.

Enrichment & Activities



We provide a variety of enjoyable, engaging, and enriching activities for your child each day, all aimed at fostering personal, physical, and social development. Additionally, extracurricular activities are available.

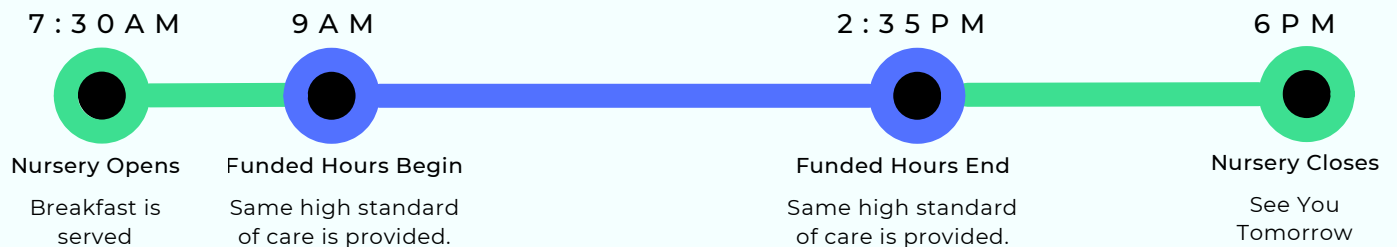
School Ready Programme



We consistently aim to support parents as they prepare for the next milestone. Our goal is to enhance your child's confidence and skills, making the transition to school significantly smoother.

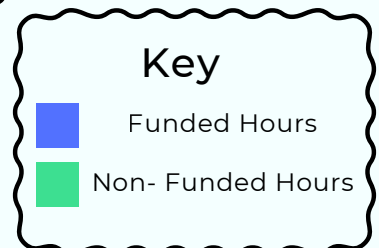
How Funding is Applied Daily

When using funding at nursery, it's essential to follow local authority and government regulations. Funded hours aren't entirely free, as councils don't provide enough funding to cover all costs. Funding rates vary based on a child's age, with younger children's hours typically costing less than those for older children. Pricing differences will be shown later in the booklet.



What isn't included in the funding

Government funding for childcare covers basic expenses but excludes additional costs like nutritious meals, consumable items (nappies), educational outings, special events, and utilities.



Cotton Tails is a privately owned family business that takes pride in the ongoing maintenance and cleanliness of all our locations. We are committed to ensuring our staff are trained to the highest standards, which includes first aid certification, food hygiene training, and safeguarding education.

Why Stretch?

For many of our parents, 15 or 30 hours of term only childcare may not be sufficient. That's why we extend the funded hours over 51 weeks to better align with the schedules of working parents. Additionally, maintaining a consistent routine can significantly benefit your child's development.



How much funding covers your average daily charge

Term dates span 38 weeks each year, which is the duration for which government funding is provided. To better support all parents, we have decided to implement Stretched Funding. This means we will distribute your allowance of either 15 or 30 hours per week across the full 51 weeks that we are open.

- If you're entitled to 15 hours per week, this translates to approximately 11.17 hours weekly, which can only be utilized over 2 days.
- If you're entitled to 30 hours per week, this equates to about 22.35 hours weekly, which can be used across 3 days.

Our standard daily rate is designed to be all-inclusive; we do not impose additional charges beyond this rate for hours outside of the funded time. Below is an example illustrating how your funding contributes to your daily rate; please note that this is a sample based on the new daily funding amount provided by the local authority in relation to the payable daily rate.

9+ Month - 2 Year Olds from September 2025

Standard entitlement used in this chart is based of 22.35 stretched funded hours used per week, split between 3 days.

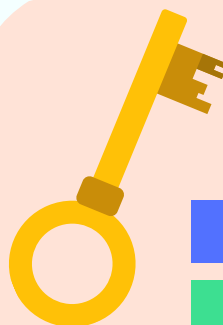
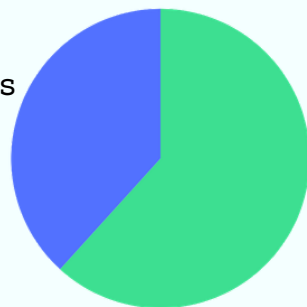


2 Year Olds from September 2025

Standard entitlement used in this chart is based of 22.35 stretched funded hours used per week, split between 4 days.

3-4 year olds

Standard entitlement used in this chart is based of 22.35 stretched funded hours used per week, split between 4 days. To help parents we are introducing a shorter day rate for 3+ Years to help minimise parent contributions.



Key

-  Council Contribute
-  Parents Contibrute

Applying for Funding

How and when you need to apply for your child's funding really depends on when your child was born. We have tried to break it down below for you.

Don't forget you should be applying for your eligibility code up to 3 months before you wish to access it. You can not apply for your code and use it within the same term.

When should you apply?

When to apply for working family funding eligibility code	
Recommended time to apply for eligibility code:	Last date to apply for the eligibility code:
15th October - 30th November	by 31st December to be funded from 1st January
15th January - 28th February	by 31st March to be funded from 1st April
15th June to 31st July	by 31st August to be funded from 1st September

When you can start claim funding	
Term Start Dates:	Child's Birthday is on or before:
1st September	31st August
1st January	31st December
1st April	31st March

Working Parent Entitlement

From September 2025, children over 9 months with working parents can receive 30 hours of weekly term funding until they start school. Eligibility includes employed parents, those on leave, or starting a new job. Funding amounts vary based on the child's age, family income, and immigration status. Cotton Tails will offer a limited number of funded-only places based on availability.

Working Parent Minimum Earnings

Over the next 3 months, you and your partner should earn at least:

- £2,539 before tax if aged 21 or over (£195/week)
- £2,080 before tax if aged 18 to 20 (£160/week)
- £1,570 before tax if under 18 or an apprentice (£120/week)

Childcare
Choices

This aligns with the National Minimum Wage or Living Wage for 16 hours a week. This table may assist in checking if you meet the income threshold.

Your age	Yearly	3 months	Weekly
21 and over	£10,158	£2,539	£195
18 to 20	£8,320	£2,080	£160
Under 18 or an apprentice	£6,281	£1,570	£120

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.

How our new bills will look

To our parents who have been with us for some time, we'd like to provide a practical example of our new invoices. Below is an illustration of an invoice for a child who is 1 year old and attends two days a week, with stretch funding applied.

Your bills will only change if you adjust your booking pattern, if there are price increases, or if your child changes funding brackets. A month before the start of a new term, we will strive to send out all invoices, giving you ample time to access your tax-free accounts.

Please remember that this is contingent upon your timely submission of your childcare code.



INVOICE

Cotton Tails Rubery

14 Leach Green Lane,
Rubery
B45 9BL

October 2025

EC

Example Child

Date issued:01/05/2025

Due Date:15/05/2025

Invoice period: Oct 01, 2025 - Oct 31, 2025

Invoice number:I-15

Item type	Description	Cost	Quantity	Total cost
Regular session	2x Funded Day 0-2Yrs per week			£195.50
Funding	Stretch Funding 9 Month- 23 Month			47.47 hours
				Total £195.50

Payment instructions

Bank Details

Account Name:

Cotton Tails Nursery

Sort Code:

16-13-19

Account Number:

10049094

Bank:

Royal Bank of Scotland