Chalkhouse Nursery

PARENT FUNDING GUIDE

2026

Help with childcare costs:

everything you need to know

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Funding overview

At Chalkhouse we understand that the current economic climate, with the cost of living continuing to rise, can be extremely challenging and cause a great amount of worry and stress.

With this in mind, we are always looking to help our families with the cost of childcare in any way we can, including government funded hours and tax-free childcare.

We put together this guide because we understand that the various government support options can be complex and a little daunting, especially if you're a new parent who hasn't done it before! Hopefully this will answer all your questions on what we cover and how to apply. If there is anything you are still unsure of please feel free to contact us by email.

Kidmore End

chalkhouse@live.co.uk

Earley

enquiries@chalkhousenursery.co.uk

Thames Valley Park

info@chalkhousewaterside.com

Funded hours

The government offers a number of funding options to help with the costs of childcare. Full information, along with eligibility criteria and how to apply, can be found at www.beststartinlife.gov.uk

The main funding options, all of which are offered at Chalkhouse, are below:

15 HOURS 3-4 YR CHILDCARE (universal) - 38 weeks (570 hours) per year

All parents in England are entitled to 15 hours of funded childcare for children aged between 3-4 years. Funding commences from the term after the child's 3rd birthday and runs until they start school. To apply, just let us know that you want to use your 15 funded hours with us and we will send you a funding form to fill in.

Funded hours (cont.)

30 HOURS 3-4 YR CHILDCARE (working families) - 38 weeks (1140 hours) per year

Eligible working families in England are entitled to an additional 15 hours of funded childcare (30 hours in total) for children aged between 3-4 years. Funding commences from the term after the child's 3rd birthday and runs until they start school. You can check your eligibility and apply through the government's Best Start in Life website (this usually takes around 20 mins). If you are eligible you will receive a funding code for the additional 15 hours which you will need to provide to us.

30 HOURS 2 YR CHILDCARE (working families) - 38 weeks (1140 hours) per year

Since September 2025, eligible working families in England are entitled to 30 hours of funded childcare for 2-year-olds. Funding commences from the term after the child's 2nd birthday until they are 3. You will just need to send us your funding code to confirm eligibility.

Funded hours (cont.)

30 HOURS 9-23 MTH CHILDCARE (working families) - 38 weeks (1140 hours) per year

Since September 2025, eligible working families in England are entitled to 30 hours of funded childcare for 9-23-month-olds. Funding commences from the term following the child turning 9 months old until they are 2.
You will just need to send us your funding code to confirm eligibility.

15 HOURS 2 YR CHILDCARE (additional needs) - 38 weeks (570 hours) per year

Some parents of families with additional needs will also be eligible for 15 hours of funded childcare for 2-year-olds. If you are in receipt of certain benefits, such as Universal Credit or Income Support, or your child has Disability Living Allowance or an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan, you may be eligible to get 15 funded hours for your child.

Funded hours (cont.)

To apply for 15-hour 2-year-old funding for families with additional needs, you'll need to speak to someone at your local council and then provide us with proof of your eligibility.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER AROUND FUNDING:

- Funding applies to 38 weeks (term-time) of the year. The remaining weeks (school holidays) are charged at the full rate. When you apply for funding with us we will spread your funded hours throughout the year so that your monthly invoice stays the same (rather than increasing during school holiday months). At Chalkhouse, we do not offer term-time only contracts so all quotes are based on a 51-week year. 30 funded hours spread over a 51-week year equates to 22.4 funded hours per week.

Funded hours (cont.)

15 funded hours spread over a 51-week year equates to 11.2 funded hours per week.

If your child attends for more than 11.2 or 22.4 hours each week, the additional hours will be charged at our standard hourly rate (currently £8.25).

As per the latest DfE statutory guidance: “government funding does not cover consumables like meals, nappies, sun cream or additional activities, so providers are able to ask parents to pay for these things. These charges are not mandatory and parents must be given the option to opt-out. The department is not encouraging parents to opt out, and we know that many parents prefer to purchase consumables from their provider”.

At Chalkhouse, we are committed to keeping childcare as affordable as possible for all of our families, so we have decided not to apply an additional charge for Food. We do charge a small monthly fee for Non-food Consumables and Activities.

Funded hours (cont.)

	Under 3s	Over 3s
Non-food Consumables	22.4 funded hours (wk)	22.4 funded hours (wk)
	£48 per month	£30 per month
	11.2 funded hours (wk)	11.2 funded hours (wk)
	£24 per month	£15 per month

	Under 3s	Over 3s
Activities	22.4 funded hours (wk)	22.4 funded hours (wk)
	£16 per month	£50 per month
	11.2 funded hours (wk)	11.2 funded hours (wk)
	£8 per month	£25 per month

Please see Page 10 for a list of some of the things that are included under Non-food Consumables and Activities.

Extra services

Non-food Consumables

Nappies

Nappy sacks

Nappy disposal

Baby wipes

Nappy cream

Sun cream

Formula milk

Medicine

Activities

Forest School

School prep sessions

BilinguaSing

Baking

Music classes

Local walks

Living eggs

Christmas show

Santa's grotto

Easter egg hunts

Extra services

If you wish to opt out of either the Non-food Consumables charge or the Activities charge then you must notify us by completing an Opt out e-form on Famly. The opt out will then take effect from the start of the calendar month following completion of the form.

If you have opted out of the Non-food Consumables charge you will need to arrange alternative means to provide the required Non-food Consumables for your child. If your child does not have the required Consumables on the day, they will have to be sent home until they have been provided; you will still be charged for the day as standard.

If you have opted out of the Activities charge your child will still receive safe, dedicated care from one of our team members at all times but will miss out on some of the fun activities and experiences we provide. In order for every child in our care to have the most enriching childcare experience possible, we have kept this charge as low as we can and would recommend not opting out of these additional activities.

Example quotes

Please see below for some examples of how we calculate your monthly fee with funded hours included:

<u>3 full days (07:30-18:00) per week with 30 funded hours (22.4 over 51-week year)</u>

31.5 hours per week

22.4 funded hours @ £0 p/hr = £0

9.1 non-funded hours @ £8.25 p/hr = £75.08

£75.08 x 51 = £3829.08 / 12 = £319.09

Non-food Consumables/Activities monthly charge (over 3s) = £80.00

Non-food Consumables/Activities monthly charge (under 3s) = £64.00

Total monthly amount to pay:

£399.09 (over 3s) / £383.09 (under 3s)

Example quotes

Please see below for some examples of how we calculate your monthly fee with funded hours included:

<u>2 full days (07:30-18:00) per week with 30 funded hours (22.4 over 51-week year)</u>

21 hours per week

22.4 funded hours @ £0 p/hr = £0

0 non-funded hours @ £8.25 p/hr = £0

Non-food Consumables/Activities monthly charge (over 3s) = £80.00

Non-food Consumables/Activities monthly charge (under 3s) = £64.00

Total monthly amount to pay:

£80.00 (over 3s) / £64 (under 3s)

Example quotes

Please see below for some examples of how we calculate your monthly fee with funded hours included:

<u>5 full days (07:30-18:00) per week with 30 funded hours (22.4 over 51-week year)</u>

52.5 hours per week

22.4 funded hours @ £0 p/hr = £0

30.1 non-funded hours @ £8.25 p/hr = £248.33

£248.33 x 51 = £12,664.83 / 12 = £1055.40

5% full time discount applied: £1002.63

Non-food Consumables/Activities monthly charge (over 3s) = £80.00

Non-food Consumables/Activities monthly charge (under 3s) = £64.00

Total monthly amount to pay: £1082.63 (over 3s) / £1066.63 (under 3s)

Example quotes

Please see below for some examples of how we calculate your monthly fee with funded hours included:

5 full days (07:30-18:00) per week with 15 funded hours (11.2 over 51-week year)

52.5 hours per week

11.2 funded hours @ £0 p/hr = £0

41.3 non-funded hours @ £8.25 p/hr = £340.73

£340.73 x 51 = £17,377.23 / 12 = £1448.10

5% full time discount applied: £1375.70

Non-food Consumables/Activities monthly charge (over 3s) = £40.00

Non-food Consumables/Activities monthly charge (under 3s) = £32.00

Total monthly amount to pay: £1415.70 (over 3s) / £1407.70 (under 3s)

Tax-free childcare (TFC)

Tax-free childcare is available for working families, including the self-employed, in the UK. To qualify, you must be earning **under £100k** and **an average of £167** per week (equal to 16 hours at the National Minimum or Living Wage) each over three months.

How does it work?

You will need to open an online account through the government Best Start in Life website which you use to pay for your childcare. For every 80p you pay in, the government will top up an extra 20p. The government will top up the account up to a total of £10,000 - the equivalent of up to £2,000 support per child, per year.

You can't use TFC if you're already claiming Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit or Universal Credit.

Useful links

BEST START IN LIFE

www.beststartinlife.gov.uk

Childcare Calculator

www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator

Apply for tax-free childcare

www.gov.uk/apply-for-tax-free-childcare

GOV.UK

Vouchers and discounts

At Chalkhouse we accept Computershare and Edenred childcare vouchers.

If you belong to any other voucher schemes please let us know.

We also offer the following discounts:

5% discount when your child attends full-time (5 full days per week)

10% sibling discount

5% discount to employers of Thames Valley Park

Thank you for taking the time to read this guide.

If you have any other questions please do not hesitate to contact us.