



Early Years Funding Guide

A simple guide on how to access
government funding at Storal

January 2026



Simplifying Funding

An explanation on Early Years funding 2026



We know navigating the different support schemes available in the early years can be complex. But getting it right can make a big difference to the cost of sending your child to nursery.



Our Early Years Funding Guide tries to simplify everything, empowering you to make the best choices for your family's needs. For further detail on a range of Government childcare support options please visit [Best Start in Life](#).





What funding is available?

Government funding helps families access high-quality early education and childcare. Depending on your child's age and your family circumstances, you may be entitled to 15 or 30 hours of funded childcare during term time.

Below is a simple overview of the different funding options available.



30 Hours Funded Childcare

For working parents of children aged 9 months and over

Eligible working parents can access up to 30 hours per week during the funded term for their child from the term after they turn 9 months old.



15 Hours Funded Childcare

Available for all children aged 3 and over, and some 2 year olds

All children aged 3 and over are entitled to 15 hours per week of funded childcare. Some children aged 2 years old may also be eligible for 15 hours depending on their family's circumstances.



Clear, transparent fees

We make it easy to see how funded hours fit with your child's care. Use your nursery's online fee calculator to view your monthly fees.

Who is eligible?

The expansion of 15 and 30 hours is aimed at working families.

What qualifies as a "Working family"?

- You, and any partner, must each expect to earn (on average) at least £167 per week
- If you, or your partner, are on maternity, paternity or adoption leave, or you're unable to work because you are disabled or have caring responsibilities, you could still be eligible
- The Government does not include you in their definition of working family if you, or your partner, each individually expect to earn £100,000 or more per year

If you do not meet the Government's working family definition, your child will still be eligible for 15 hours funding the funded term after they turn 3.



In addition, if your family already receives other government support, you may be eligible for 15 hours funding the funded term after your child turns 2.





How can I apply?

You will need a valid eligibility code from HMRC to claim either 15 or 30 hours.

1

Check you are eligible - find out more about whether you are eligible [here](#)

2

Check when you can apply - you need to apply the funded term before you want to take up the place

3

Apply for your childcare code* - if eligible, you will get an online childcare account and a code for the funded hours. Apply [here](#). If you use Tax Free Childcare, once you reconfirm your entitlement, you will then receive your code

4

Give the code to us* - along with your national insurance number and your child's date of birth. We will check if your code is valid

5

Complete a parent declaration form - we have invested in Funding Loop to make this process paperless and more convenient for parents

6

Start accessing 15 or 30 hours - we will claim funding directly from the local authority and apply the funding to your invoice

7

Reconfirm - you must confirm your details are up to date every 3 months or your code expires. You will receive a reminder to do this

*Steps 3 & 4 are not required if you are only claiming Universal Entitlement (15 Hours for children over 3).

How we offer funding at Storal

Making funding work for working families



Stretched funding

The Government only offers funded hours during the 38 weeks of funded term time which equates to 570 hours a year for 15 hours, or 1,140 hours a year for 30 hours.

Whilst this makes sense for schools, at Storal we have designed our offering to suit the needs of working families and to ensure your bills don't escalate in non-term time.

We stretch the total hours available to you across the year which is approximately 11.18 hours per week for 15 hours and 22.35 hours per week for 30 hours.¹



Convenience

We offer funded hours within our regular session times, offering convenience and continuity for working parents.

For those eligible for 30 hours funding, families can sign up for up to 20 funded hours per week over two full days - utilising the maximum 10 hours per day (as permitted by the Local Authority.) The balance of the funded hours may then be added to a regular full or half day session.

15 hours funding can be used across full day sessions or in half-day sessions, to enable parents to maximise their funding with no artificial breaks in the day.

We have invested in the Funding Loop platform to make the application process much easier for parents, with less paperwork.



Combine your savings

By accessing 15 hours, you will be able to save approximately **£3,000 per year** per child. This will be increased to **£6,000 per year** with 30 hours.

In addition, by using the Tax-Free Childcare scheme, you will be able to save up to an additional **£2,000 per year** per child. You can apply for Tax-Free Childcare through this [link](#).

¹ This stretch calculation is for a nursery that is open for 51 weeks. If your child is born between 1 January and 31 March and first accesses funding with us in the Summer term, our stretch calculations work a bit differently for that first term only. Please check with your local Storal nursery for further details

Extracurriculars, meals, and other additional charges

Fostering your child's learning and development



While government funding supports the delivery of the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage), it does not cover the cost of meals, Health & Hygiene consumables or extracurricular activities. At Storal, we provide an all-inclusive, integrated service that reflects our commitment to supporting every child's development, wellbeing, and daily experience, as well as maximising convenience for our busy parents.



To keep things straightforward, we apply modest daily charges that reflect the respective cost of meals and snacks, health and hygiene essentials, and extracurricular activities that enrich your child's time with us. Our online fee calculator, available on your nursery's webpage, shows what your monthly fees will be—inclusive of these additional charges, with no hidden surprises. You can also see how fees and funding changes when your child turns two and three years old.



Participation in our integrated offering is not a condition for accessing a funded place. If you're considering changing your usage of any part of our integrated offering, please speak with the nursery manager to discuss your options. Any updates must apply for the full funded term and require six weeks' notice prior to the start of term.

Our extracurricular programme

Our extracurricular programme is designed to give our children additional learning experiences which broaden their horizons. Over and above the Early Years Foundation Stage, our extracurriculars are woven throughout the nursery week and taught by our nursery teams, who are specially trained to lead them and can respond to every individual child's needs and interests.



Forest School Club

Our Forest School sessions give children the opportunity to connect or reconnect with the world around them and find balance. Supported by our very own book and song-based Forest School curriculum, children are able to explore the outdoors, move, make, and be creative.



Mindfulness Club

A core part of our commitment to every child's wellbeing, our yoga & mindfulness sessions build resilience and support their physical development and emotional regulation. Creating moments of calm and reflection, these activities give children the tools to navigate the busy world around them.



Cookery Club

Cooking is a fantastic activity with countless learning opportunities. Developing their language and literacy skills, as well their understanding of maths and measurements, cooking supports children's understanding of where their food comes from and lets them marvel at their delicious creations.



Creative Arts Club

Rooted in the Reggio Emilia philosophy, this programme helps children explore the world through dance, sculpture, music, dramatic play and science. Offering children rich, immersive learning experiences that are meaningful, joyful, and driven by curiosity



Community trips

We believe that every child needs to understand the world around them, and their place within it. That's why we support our children to go on trips - whether that be out & about in the community or further afield to a museum, theatre, or natural beauty spot. Driven by their interests, these will vary from group to group.



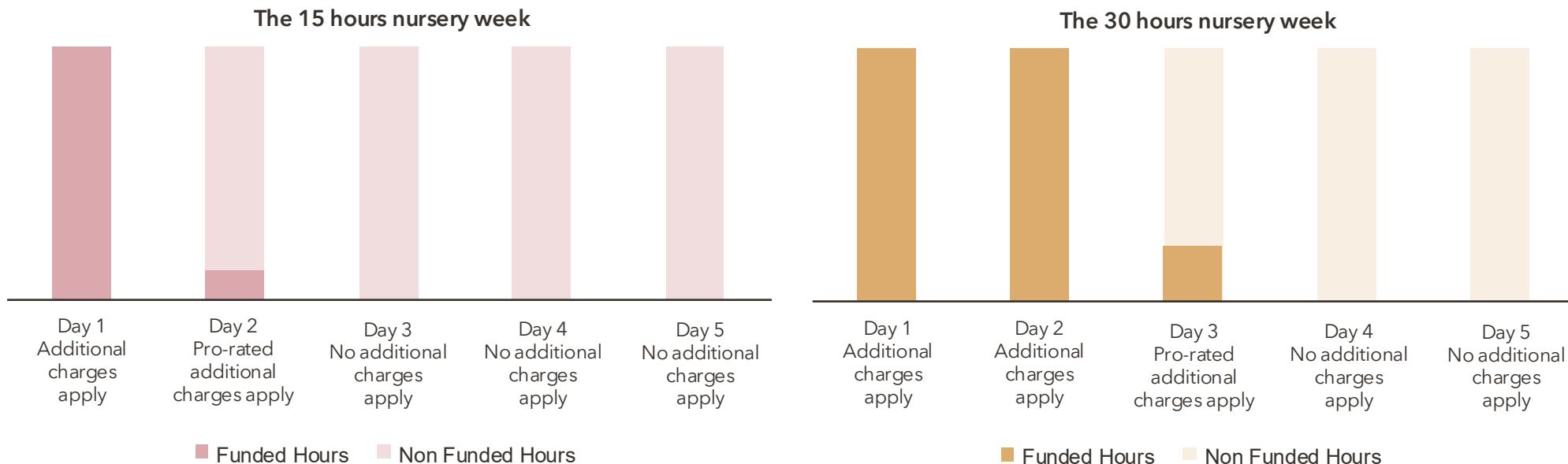
Seasonal events

We love being right at the heart of our communities, which is why we run regular seasonal events to celebrate key milestones and bring our families together. Unique to each nursery, our events include Sports days, Graduations, Summer fetes and Winter parties.

Transparent fees

The illustrations below show how billing works for government-funded sessions. When funding applies, the funded hours are free and you only pay our additional hourly rate for any extra hours, plus any additional charges. When no funding applies, you pay the standard all-inclusive session rate.

Please refer to your Nursery Fee Sheet for specific amounts.



Our teams are on hand to answer any questions that you have relating to fees and funding. Please feel free to contact your local nursery manager for more information.