

Funding policy

At *Little Beans* we pride ourselves on catering for all families and helping where we can to make sure we provide quality, affordable childcare. We accept 2-year, 3 year and 4-year funding for families to access across our variety of sessions on offer. Alongside this, if you fall within a certain criteria, you can also claim additional funding such as early years pupil premium or deprivation funding.

When a child starts at *Little Beans*, we will give you forms to fill out with all the details we need to claim for your funding. Each parent is required to sign an agreement of the terms and conditions for your child to receive this. The agreement is with BCP council and as a nursery we claim funding on your behalf. As per this agreement with yourselves, the rules of funding are set by the Council and we at *Little Beans* alongside yourselves must adhere to these rules. In order to verify your child's identity and age for the purposes of any funding claim, you will need to provide us with their original birth certificate or passport so that we can verify it and take a copy for our records.

Consumables Fee: For funded children a fee of £1.05 is charged for every hour that your child attends. This is to cover consumables such as snacks, resources, activities, trips and the extra-curricular tutors we use. We can consider charging consumables on an individual basis – therefore we ask for you to be open, honest and to communicate with management if you are going through financial hardship and need support.

2-year olds funding: If you are eligible to claim 2-year funding, we will not ask for a registration fee or deposit. You can claim up to 15 hours a week which you can either spread across the whole year or use term time only. If spreading your funding across the year you will receive 11 hours per week. If you receive 2-year olds funding then (a) consumables will not be charged to you and (b) when you go on to claim 3- or 4-year olds funding for that child, consumables will not be charged. However, where a parent's financial situation changes during this time, we will re-evaluate and consider charging the consumables fee for these families.

3-year olds funding: Every child is entitled to 15 hours funding starting from the term after their 3rd birthday. Some families can claim an additional 15 hours a week, if you fit a certain criteria. For each child, you can choose to spread the funding across the whole year or use it term time only. If you spread the funding across the year, you will get 11 hours per week (plus a further 11 if you claim 30 hours).

You can use the website below to check if you are eligible for the 30 hours:

30 hours free childcare – <https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare>

If you are claiming 30 hours funding you will need to make sure that you check your eligibility each term. This is done via the same government portal that you used to apply for the funding. If you do not re-check your eligibility each term, you risk being charged full fees for your child's sessions.

We don't charge a deposit if you are only attending for your funded hours and will not be incurring any additional fees monthly.

Session Fee: As per our terms and conditions on our prospectus any hours that funding doesn't cover will be charged at an hourly rate of £6.40.

We do accept funded children to do extra sessions outside of the funding agreement they have with the Council. These extra sessions will be charged at the hourly rate specified above - £6.40.

Additional funding: In addition to the 2-, 3- and 4-year olds funding, *Little Beans* can get extra funding for some children. Depending on your circumstances some children get given early years pupil premium (EYPP), deprivation funding or disability access fund (DAF). As a nursery we discuss between ourselves and other professionals how we can use this funding to best help each child that is eligible. For your child to be eligible for DAF you will need to be claiming Disability Living Allowance (DLA).

Little Beans