



Government Funding Policy

Little Bicks is currently registered to offer Free Early Education (FEE). A headcount of all eligible children is submitted by Little Bicks on a termly basis, to the relevant Local Authorities.

What we aim to do

We aim to provide excellent secular and Jewish education to the children in our setting. It is our intention to deliver the Nursery Education Funding in the way in which the government intends, but also to ensure the future sustainability of our nursery.

How we will achieve this

The Government advertises this entitlement as free to parents, but the entitlement received by the nursery is considerably less than the price it costs to run our sessions. To ensure we do not detrimentally impact on the smooth operations of the nursery and in the interests of all our children we offer only 12 fully funded places on the FEE3 scheme. These places are allocated at the discretion of management and may be spread over the three terms in conjunction with our eligibility criteria. If, by the start of the summer term, we have not filled all the places we will go back and allocate a fully funded place to the next eligible child. All other funded children will be subject to a monthly charge of £90 for extra-curricular activities. This includes the Jewish education part of our curriculum, kosher food and the additional services we provide for the children. Parents cannot opt out of these extra elements of the curriculum as it forms a vital part of our nursery ethos. This charge is capped at £270 a term.

Once a child is in receipt of the 3&4 year old funding the termly charge of £10 for the cultural fund is no longer applied to their invoice. These terms are stated in our terms and conditions which are accepted when registering your child at Little Bicks.

We also offer 30-hour funding and deliver this with two options. Please see below for more information.

For further information on availability of fully funded spaces please report to the Senior Manager.

Who is eligible for the fully funded places?

Any child who is using the 2-year old funding will automatically be transferred to a three year old fully funded space unless their circumstances have changed in order that they would not qualify. If not an automatic transfer, our eligibility criteria is as follows:

- Children whose parents are receiving Tax Credits. Proof of the award must be provided and cover the period of funding.
- If more children meet the first eligibility criteria of Tax Credits than there are allocated fully funded places for that term, we will allocate places based on the earliest child's starting date at the nursery.

30 funded hours

30-hour funding is based on the parent's income and whether it is a one or two parent family. If a two-parent household, both parents must be working and in a one parent household, that parent must work. In both cases, each parent can earn up to £100,000 each annually and must earn a minimum amount of the equivalent of 16 hours at the national living wage per week. Parents need to access a code by going to the HMRC website from 16 weeks before their child's third birthday, entering their details and finding out if they are eligible. If they are, a code will be given and this code must be given to the nursery. The code **must** be renewed every three months by the date given by HMRC. Codes must be applied for by specific dates before the term after your child turns three. August 31, March 31 and December 31. After this date you will not be able to access 30-hour funding for the following term.

We have two options for 30 hours (security is payable for both):

Option 1

- Hours can be taken flexibly depending on availability
- Less or more than 30 hours can be taken each week
- Extra hours (permanent and over 30) will be charged at an hourly rate
- Left over hours cannot be added on an ad hoc basis with no cost attached
- Additional hours can be added depending on availability and will be charged as usual (see fees on the website)
- A weekly (full or part) fee will be charged for this contract
- All information will be sent prior to the funding period and will include up to date prices of extra hours and the weekly contract price

Option 2

- Hours are fixed and are dependent on availability
- We do not offer part of the hours if all are not available
- No more and no fewer hours can be taken
- Additional hours are not permitted
- No weekly contract fee is applied
- A waiting list for option 2 may be necessary depending on how many children have requested it.

Information will be sent at the beginning of the academic year and again the term before children are eligible.

When does a child become eligible for FEE?

Children are eligible for FEE from the first term after the date they turn three years old to the last term before they attend school.

Children born between 1 January — 31 March become eligible in summer term (Apr — Aug).

Children born between 1 April — 31 August become eligible in Autumn Term (Sept — Dec).

Children born between 1 September — 31 December become eligible in Spring Term (Jan — Apr).

A parent or guardian can claim a maximum of 15 hours per week over three academic terms (Spring, Summer & Autumn). The total number of weeks that the claiming can be claimed for over the three academic terms is 38 weeks.

Three hours of FEE funding can be claimed per session attended (a session is defined as a morning or afternoon). To claim the full entitlement of 15 hours per week, the child must attend nursery for five sessions. Breakfast and lunch club cannot be used and will be charged at the normal rate.

A parent can use all 15 hours with Little Bicks or split the claim over two childcare providers. However, the total claim per child must not exceed 15 hours per week.

How is it claimed?

FEE can be claimed via Little Bicks by parents or guardians by signing a declaration at the beginning of each term and signing and agreeing to the terms and conditions. These declarations confirm the child details and the number of hours of FEE funding being claimed.

For each term claim, a child must be in attendance at the nursery on or before the term Headcount Date advised by the Local Education Authority. The Headcount Date is a specific date usually towards the beginning of each term. Details of these dates are available on the Local Education Authority website.

If a child starts at the nursery after the Headcount Date, Little Bicks will submit a late claim to the Local Education Authority during the Adjustment Week but cannot provide free childcare until approved.

If a child leaves Little Bicks during a term then the FEE claimed through Little Bicks will be adjusted to reflect the actual hours attended at the Little Bicks nursery.

What does my invoice look like?

All sessions booked in are detailed on the invoice. The funded sessions are highlighted with no amount next to them and the extra curricular charge is calculated at the bottom.

Date policy was reviewed	March 2022
This policy is due for review before	March 2023