



Government Funding Policy

Little Bicks is currently registered to offer all funding streams provided by the government. A headcount of all eligible children is submitted by Little Bicks on a termly basis, to the relevant Local Authorities.

Working Families Funding

Existing funding	30 funded hours from term after three years old 15 universal hours from term after three years old (not means tested) 15 universal hours disadvantaged children from term after two years old
April 2024	15 funded hours from term after two years old
September 2024	15 funded hours from term after nine months old
September 2025	30 funded hours from term after nine months old

Funding is for 38 weeks of the year as term-time for all children. Children attending 46 weeks a year will also have funding claimed as term-time with the additional eight weeks as fee paying.

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 a limited number of 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.

Consumables charge

All children on universal 15 hours funding will be charged a consumables fee of £25 for each funded week (38 weeks) a year. This goes towards activities such as (but not limited to) Multi Sports, Israeli Music, termly trips and visits, visitors, Jewish and cultural activities. It only relates to the 15 funded hours and any other hours over and above this will be charged as usual fees.

Once a child is in receipt of the three-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 and 15-hour Working Families funding and deliver each of these with different options. Please see below for more information.

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

Who is eligible for the fully funded places?

Any child who is using the two-year-old disadvantaged funding will automatically be transferred to a three-year-old funded place.

Working Families funding (15 hours for two year olds, 30 hours for under three year olds)

Funded hours are 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 second or 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 different options for Working Families funding (security is payable for all funding options):

Option 1 (three-year-olds 30 funded hours)

Option 4 (two-year-olds 15 funded hours)

- Hours can be taken flexibly depending on availability
- Less or more than 30/15 hours can be taken each week
- Extra hours (permanent and over 30/15) 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 (three-year-olds 30 funded hours)

Option 5 (two-year-olds 15 funded hours)

- Places are limited
- 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 or option 5 may be necessary depending on how many children have requested it.

Option 3 (15 hours universal funding for three year olds)

- All children are eligible the term after they turn three years old
- Eligible sessions are five x three-hour morning and/or afternoon sessions
- Any additional sessions are invoiced

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 funded hours?

Children are eligible for funded hours from the first term after the date the relevant funding age (if eligible) 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).

The nursery claims a maximum of 15 or 30 hours per week for each eligible child 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.

A parent can use all funded hours with Little Bicks or split the claim over two childcare providers if agreement has been given by both providers. However, the total claim per child must not exceed 15 or 30 hours per week.

How is it claimed?

Funded hours 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 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 funded childcare until approved.

If a child leaves Little Bicks during a term then the hours 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. Funded hours are allocated according to a formula where:

Working Families 15 funded hours - morning sessions 9am-12pm will be allocated first and then afternoon sessions where not all days are attended.

Working Families 30 funded hours – first 30 hours of the week taken are allocated as funded hours and then any additional hours are charged for

Date policy was reviewed	March 2024
This policy is due for review before	March 2025