Early Years Government Funding Policy

As of 1st September 2025

Early Years Childcare Support Funding

This Government Funding is a national scheme, administered by local authorities, which offers funded childcare hours with an Ofsted registered provider. A variety of funded hours are available depending on the child's age and the family's situation. Childcare providers can choose how to offer the Early Years Funding as long as the following parameters are met: -

- Funded childcare cannot be longer than 10 hours in a single day.
- Funded childcare must be accessed between 6am and 8pm; and
- Funded childcare is available at a maximum of two childcare sites in a single day.

Types of Early Years Funding

Supported Two-year-old funding

A child will be entitled to 570 funded hours a year from the term after both the child has attained the age of two and the child or parent meets the eligibility criteria.

Where a child is in receipt of Supported Two-year-old funding they will continue to receive their funded place until the point when the child becomes eligible for the Universal Funding, even if the child or parent ceases to meet the eligibility criteria during this time.

Only one type of Two-year-old funding can be claimed at a time.

Universal Three- and- Four-year-old Funding

All three- and four-year-olds are entitled to 570 funded childcare hours a year. Regulation requires us to validate a child's age. Parents will need to provide evidence of a child's birth date (normally a passport or birth certificate), and copies will be taken and retained as evidence of compliance.

Working Families Funding

Working Families Funding is for qualifying working parents with a child aged 9 months to 4 years old. A child will be entitled to up to 1,140 funded hours a year from the term after they have attained the relevant age and the eligibility criteria, set by the government, has been met.

Parents must apply for a positive eligibility code from HMRC via Childcare Services Account. This eligibility code must be provided to us before the Early Years Funding can be claimed. The parent is responsible for re-validating the eligibility code every three months when reminded by HMRC. Failure to do so may result in the Working Families Funding being withdrawn.

Information on all the Early Years Funding eligibility criteria can be found here: http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

When a parent can apply for funding.

If my child turns 9 months old between	I can access 30 funded hours from	And I need to apply by
1 January to 31 March	Term starting on or after 1 April	31 March
1 April to 31 August	Term starting on or after 1 September	31 August
1 September to 31 December	Term starting on or after 1 January	31 December

How Radmoor Nursery offers Early Years Funding

Radmoor Nursery want to make sure that families use their funding to its full potential.
Parents are able to maximise their funded childcare by using up to 9 hours of funding a day before purchasing additional hours and without any artificial break in the day.

As an all-year-round childcare provider we stretch the early years funding across up to 51 weeks instead of limiting it to 38 weeks of term time.

Funding is claimed on an all-year-round basis only.

Stretch / banking effect

- 15 hours of funded childcare over 38 weeks (term time) equates to 570 funded childcare hours a year. Under our stretched / banked offer, we will claim 9 hours per week of funded childcare over, up to 51 weeks of the year.
- 30 hours of funded childcare over 38 weeks (term time) equates to 1,140 funded childcare hours a year. Under our stretched / banked offer, we will claim 18 hours per week of funded childcare over, up to 51 weeks of the year.

Funding is available as follows -

- Eligible for 15 hours of funding per week - This will be claimed as 1 x full day (8.30-5.30) 9 hours per week **or** 1 or 2 x half days (8.30am-1pm / 1-5.30pm) 4.5 or 9 hours per week claimed.
- Eligible for 30 hours funding per week - This will be claimed as 1or 2 x full days (8.30-5.30) 9 **or** 18 hours per week

To enable the funding to be used across the year, some hours may/will be banked and used later in the summer period.

Radmoor Nursery reserves the right to make exceptions to its funding framework on a case-by-case basis at its sole discretion.

Fully funded places are reviewed on a termly basis dependent on the operational requirements of the nursery. If requested, the Nursery Manager will discuss the options available for a fully funded place directly with parents.

Meals and Enrichment Charges Explained

These charges are shown separately, but it's an opt in to all additional services or opt out of all (meal and enrichment charges).
Early Years Funding is intended to cover the delivery of childcare only. It is not intended to cover the costs of meals, other consumables, additional hours or additional services. To cover costs not included in the Early Years Funding we request that parents pay a non-mandatory Food and Enrichment services fee for every funded session booked.

Type of charge	Per full day	Per half day
Food Charge- FD -Breakfast, am snack, Lunch with desert, pm snack, tea with desert AM – breakfast, am snack, lunch with desert PM – pm snack, tea with desert	£9.10	Am -£4.50 Pm £3.50
Enrichment Charge	£8.50	£4.25

If you require additional time outside of the funding, this is to be booked with management for the upcoming term/s. A terms notice is required to drop these additional costs. Costs for booked additional times are charged regardless of absence due to sickness or holiday etc.

Type of charge	Per full day	Per half day
Additional hours charge	£7.00 per hour	£4.00 per 30 mins

The Food / Enrichment charge supports (but does not wholly cover) for a child to access an enhanced provision with a bespoke curriculum, high quality childcare and education and covers your child to enjoy all of the below.

- All meals and snacks whilst your child is in attendance with us, prepared by our Nursery Cook onsite, comprising of…
- Breakfast – Choice of cereals and fruit
- Mid-morning healthy snack – examples are fresh fruit or vegetables, rice cakes, crackers
- Lunch – two courses including a freshly prepared and cooked, healthy nutritious meal followed by desert
- Afternoon snack – examples are fresh fruit or vegetables, rice cakes, crackers, this is different to the morning snack to ensure variety for our children who attend all day.
- Afternoon tea – two courses including a freshly prepared and cooked healthy nutritious meal followed by desert
- Sun cream, Calpol, sudocrem, facecloths, bibs and bedding, wellies, puddle suits (washed in-house in our laundry)
- We have several parties and events throughout the year which are included within your enrichment charge and additional childcare for these sessions are at no extra cost.
- Graduation (school leavers) – parents and children invited for tea and includes graduation gifts for your child such as keepsakes and t-shirts.

- Christmas Party/celebrations– additional meals and includes a visit from Santa and a personal gift. Around the world food tasting, dressing up, Celebratory parties, events and activities e.g. easter / Diwali throughout the year
- Trips and visits are provided at no extra cost, examples are library, park, visiting the local shops, fire station, or local events. (reduced ratio is required for this)
- Special Guests, Visitors and events- we supply for a variety of extra-curricular activities throughout the year at no extra cost, such as Dance classes, Yoga, bouncy castles, sports activities, caterpillar/butterfly hatching.
- Animal experiences such as caterpillars/butterflies / have the therapy dog
- Offer an enhanced curriculum provision and have access to Forest area.
- Extensive handovers upon collection.
- Face to face one to one meetings.
- Sensory room access.
- Extensive early intervention strategies.
- Extensive behaviour management.
- Staff are trained extensively above the expectations of the EYFS framework.
- Nearly all staff paediatric first aid trained (EYFS only requires 1 staff member on the premises with this at all times)
- Use of the Famly app for daily communication, logs and photos of your child's day.
- Have a floater member of staff on site to assist and support
- Work on a smaller ratio when within the 2-3 years room than that recently changed by Ofsted.

Food, Enrichment charges and additional hours are booked and charged for the upcoming term, and we require a terms notice to drop these. These charges are still charged regardless of absence due to sickness or holidays etc.

Unable or Unwilling to pay

If parents / carers who are unable or unwilling to pay, choose to access a fully free space, they must understand and agree to provide the following, which are not covered by FEEE and are classed as an additional service. Our standard model of delivering the funded hours is to include everything included in our private package. As stated above, FEEE is not expected to cover the costs of meals, enrichment charges, or additional hours.
Those who are unable or unwilling to pay will be offered a fully free space on a Monday and/or Friday.

To access a fully free space, parents / carers MUST agree to provide the following for every session their child attends.

Breakfast	Cereal / Fruit
AM Snack	Fruit / Vegetable Sticks /Breadsticks / Oatcakes / Rice cakes
Lunch	Packed Lunch, including sandwiches (no nut or chocolate spread), wraps, crackers or rice cakes. Cold pasta. Vegetable sticks, fruit, cereal bars. Please do not send sweets or chocolate products. Must have ice packs in lunch box.
PM Snack	Fruit / Vegetable Sticks /Breadsticks / Oatcakes / Rice cakes

Tea	Packed Lunch, including sandwiches (no nut spread or chocolate spread), wraps, crackers or rice cakes. Cold pasta. Vegetable sticks, fruit, cereal bars. Please do not send sweets or chocolate products. Must have ice packs in lunch box.
Water bottle	A refillable water bottle
Children in Nappies	Nappies, wipes and nappy bags
Medication	Calpol and Piriton
Toiletries	Toothbrush and toothpaste (Preschool only)
Spare Clothes	All Year Round
Wellies	All Year Round
Winter Months	Waterproof all in one / hat / scarf / gloves / warm clothing to be worn
Summer months	Sun hat / Suncream
Baking	24 hours' notice will be provided on what ingredients you need to supply

If you are bringing in your own food, please provide ice packs in lunch boxes (labelled with your child/ren's name) as there is no space to store food in our fridge. **Due to some children's severe allergies, please ensure that any food containing nuts are not brought into the setting** and food items are listed with ingredients and allergens. Please note that we are unable to reheat food, so please ensure that any food which is brought in can be eaten at room temperature.

Please see our separate unable or unwilling to pay and packed lunch policy to ensure that all foods being brought into nursery complies with the Food standards agency regulations and EYFS nutrition guidance. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-nutrition

Missing items, that need to be provided by nursery will incur an additional charge, invoiced in arrears at a rate of 50p per event

If you choose not to do adhere to this, children will not be able to attend. This is imperative as we want to ensure that children accessing Fully Funded Free spaces get the same quality and access to provision as those using private paid hours.
Where parents / carers are unable or unwilling to pay, they are unable to book additional hours / sessions outside of their funded sessions.
By utilising a fully funded free space, parents / carers understand that they **will not** receive the following:

1	Access to an online learning journey or care diary on the Famly app. Statutory documentation, such as the 2-year check will be provided. Any other progress reports will be passed on verbally.
2	Daily update photos of their child/ren via the Famly app.
3	Children will not be able to participate in any additional activity, such as dance sessions / forest school / sporting activities / park visits / trips etc.
4	Children will not be able to attend certain events, such as Christmas or graduation, complete additional cultural festival celebrations.
5	Children will not receive any gifts.

Willing to pay - Meal and Enrichment charges.

To ensure we can continue to offer a bespoke curriculum, high quality childcare and education, offering children nutritious healthy, balanced meals and snacks throughout the day, parents are charged for Meals and an Enrichment Charge. These are explained above.
These costs only apply to sessions where Government funding is being used. Sessions outside of these days are charged at the usual daily costs with all meals and enrichments included. These are classed as private paid hours / sessions.

For parents / carers willing to pay, Radmoor Nursery are able to offer flexibility on days that the funding is claimed for your child. The funding will be allocated on the first days of attendance in the week. This will be discussed between parents / carers and the nursery management team. Fully funded free spaces are only allocated on Mondays and Fridays.

Funding is claimed either 8.30am-5.30pm, 8.30-1pm or 1-6pm. If you would like to book for your child to attend the hour outside of the full day or 30 minutes outside of the half day, please book this in at the office. This will be for a termly booking. Children must not arrive earlier than their booked session and must be collected at the correct time.

For children in receipt of EYPP funding, this will be looked at being used towards these additional charges, but there may still be a smaller cost to parents.

Parents/carers will automatically be enrolled into the Meals and Enrichment charges, and this will be applied to your invoice unless you have spoken to management directly and the unable / unwilling policy has been signed and sessions reviewed.

Refundable Deposit

Where funded sessions are booked in advance, a deposit of £100 will be charged. This will be refunded, in a timely manner. Where a child does not start at the setting, this deposit is nonrefundable.
Registration fees are only charged for private paid sessions.

Parent Declaration Form (PSOU)

Regulation requires childcare providers to enter into a separate funding agreement with parents, called the Parent Declaration Form.
Local authorities require parents to enter into a Parent Declaration Form covering the Early Years Funding. The local authority Parent Declaration form must be signed each term. If the local authority Parent Declaration Form is not signed and returned to us Early Years Funding cannot be claimed and the full fees (without the Early Years Funding applied) will be charged to you.
Children must be in attendance for the hours the funding is claimed.

Required documentation

Regulation requires childcare providers to obtain documentation to evidence eligibility for the Early Years Funding as per below:

- Supported Two-year old Funded Childcare: Child's birth certificate or passport, confirmation of eligibility (e.g. local authority confirmation letter/email or code).
- Universal Funded Childcare: Child's birth certificate or passport; and
- Working Families Funding: Child's birth certificate or passport, Parent's full name, date of birth, eligibility Code issued by HMRC, and national insurance number.

Additional documentation may be needed depending on local authority requirements.

Child absences

Each local authority has its own policy on child absences during Funded Childcare. Radmoor Nursery must keep the local authorities informed of child absences and the local authority has the right to recover funding payments made during periods of absences. Parents are responsible for paying Radmoor Nursery for any funding payments reclaimed by the local authority due to a child's absence. Please see attendance policy.