We're Offering Funded Childcare



www.meadopenfarmdaynursery.co.uk

Mead Open Farm, Stanbridge Road, Billington,
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Mead Open Farm
Day Nursery & Pre-School

Are you eligible for 30 Hours Free Childcare?

30 Hours Free Childcare: A Comprehensive Overview

The 30 hours free childcare initiative is a valuable support system aimed at eligible working parents of three and four year olds.

The 15 hour grant

All children in England get 570 free hours per year. It can be taken as 15 hours a week for 38 weeks of the year or 11 hours over 51 weeks of the year (there is 1 week chargeable in December).

You can access this from the term after your child's 3rd birthday. Term start dates are in January, September and Easter.

The additional 15 hours free childcare and eligibility

You may be eligible to get up to 30 hours free childcare (totalling 1,140 hours per year).

You will be eligible for the 30 hours if you fall into the below criteria;



- Both parents in your household are employed and work the equivalent of at least 16 hours each at national living wage or national minimum wage, therefore earning at least £120 per week.
- Neither parent in the family household earns over £100,000.
- One parent is employed and one parent has substantial caring responsibilities based on specific benefits received for caring.
- One or both parents are temporarily away from the workplace on parental, maternity, paternity or adoption leave. You can also be temporarily away from the workplace on statutory sick pay.
- One parent is employed and the other parent is disabled or incapacitated based on receipt of specific benefits.

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Using the 30 hours funded childcare

If you are eligible, over the year you will have a total of 1,140 hours. You have two options at Mead Open Farm Day Nursery & Pre-School on how to allocate your 30 hour grant.

Using the hours all year round care

As we are open 52 weeks of the year, we offer an all year-round option for our funded children.

- 4 x 5.5 hour sessions (with morning sessions 7:30am - 1:00pm or afternoon sessions 1:00pm - 6:30pm)
- 2 x 10 hour sessions (8:00am - 6.00pm)
- 4 x 5 hour sessions (with morning sessions 8:00am - 1:00pm or afternoon sessions 1:00pm - 6:00pm)



Please note we charge an Enrichment Fee that covers the cost of food, consumables, and unique farm experiences.

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Upcoming Changes to Funded Childcare

Government Funded Childcare for Working Parents

Government funded childcare is due to be extended to include more families. This comprehensive support aims to provide flexibility and peace of mind for working parents.

It's important to note that the rollout of these changes will occur in stages. Just like the existing offer, you can choose how to use these hours based on your nursery. They can be utilised over 51 weeks of the year, however 1 week still being chargeable in December.

As you prepare to enrol your child in nursery in 2024/25, this development in free childcare offerings presents an excellent opportunity to enhance your child's early education journey. Please see the table provided below to gain a clear understanding of the available funding options for 2024.

Child's Age	Number of hours I can claim	When can I claim this?	When am I eligible for this?	Who is eligible?
9-23 months	15 hours	To be confirmed (no details provided by government yet)	September 2024	Working Parents who earn less than a combined income of £100k in the current tax year. If your combined income is greater than £100k per year, you will not be eligible until your child turns 3 years old
24-36 months	15 hours	Now - if eligible you will be given a code that needs to be sent to your preferred childcare provider	April 2024	Working Parents who earn no more than £100k (each) in the current tax year. If you or your partner's income is greater than £100k each per year, you will not be eligible until your child turns 3 years old

For more information & to check your eligibility, visit:
https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/07/07/free-childcare-how-we-tackling-the-cost-of-childcare/

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Accessing the additional free childcare

To access the funded childcare you will need to go through the following process:

1) Check your eligibility at www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs
2) It is expected the application process will takes around 20 minutes to complete and you will need to provide your name, address and national insurance number, as well as your income expectations over the next three months and details of any benefits.
3) If you live with a partner, you will need to provide the same information for them. This will enable HMRC to decide whether your child is eligible for funded childcare.
4) If you are eligible, you will then be given a code that you will need to show Mead Open Farm Day Nursery & Pre-School, along with your national insurance number and your child's birth certificate.
5) Once your code has been confirmed, we will then be able to book your child's place.
6) You will need to reconfirm your eligibility every three months by logging into your Childcare Service account.



Deadlines to verify your code are:

- **31 August (for a September take up)**
- **31 December (for a January take up)**
- **31 March (for a April take up)**

Existing Parents:

Please note if you are an existing parent then you need to reconfirm your eligibility for funded childcare every three months – you can ask your onsite administrator for a copy of the eligibility form. If you reconfirm and you're no longer eligible, you will receive a message telling you that you are no longer eligible. If your child has started a funded place, they may be able to continue their funded childcare for a limited period known as the 'grace period'. You should however still reconfirm so that you can receive funded childcare for the following term.

The earliest existing parents can reconfirm their eligibility for funded childcare is 28 days before the deadline. If you reconfirm on time, your eligibility end date extends by three months.

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