Funded Childcare Options



www.meadopenfarmdaynursery.co.uk
Mead Open Farm, Stanbridge Road, Billington,
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Mini Farmers Day Nursery
at Mead Open Farm

Free Childcare is Expanding

A COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW

The Government's childcare initiative is a valuable support system for all parents, which is getting even better.

The 30 hour grant

From September 2025, parents working at least 16 hours a week may be eligible for 30 hours of funded childcare, for their children aged at least nine months on or before 31 August 2025. If your child turns 9 months after this date, places are funded from the following term (starting in January, April and September). We share full eligibility criteria further in this E-book.

The 15 hour grant

If you are not eligible for 30 hours of funded childcare, your child may be eligible for 15 hours instead at either 9 months or three years old.

- All parents of children aged three to four in England can access a universal offer of 15 hours of government funded early education from the term after their child turns three. It doesn't matter how much you earn or how many hours you work.
- 15 weekly hours may also be available free for 9 month olds (currently 2 year olds) if the child has an education, health and care plan, or parents receive specific benefits (such as universal credit with an annual income under £15,400). Places are funded from the next term after their birthday.



Term start dates are in January, April and September, so important to access the funding and confirm with your nursery by the relevant deadline dates.

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Eligibility for the full 30 hours?

You will be eligible for the 30 hours free childcare (totalling 1,140 per year) 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.

Using the hours all year round care

Below are two options of how you can split the hours throughout the whole calendar year. Stretched funding means that 15hrs is reduced to 11hrs per week, and 30hrs is reduced to 22hrs to allow your funding to be used all year round, over 51 weeks with the 52nd week being chargeable.



- 4 x 5 hour sessions (with morning sessions 8:00am - 1:00pm or 1:00pm - 6:00pm)
- 2 x 10 hour sessions (8:00am – 6:00pm)

*If this option is selected, the extra 2 hours can be used toward another full day or half day session.

For more information please head to https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/3/schools_and_education

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

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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 the 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.



Please note our term time dates 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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