

WISHING WELL NURSERIES

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Funded Early Education for under 3's
Early Years Unit Droitwich Road

Dear Parents,

There is a lot of information below and some very confusing, so please read carefully, but if you have any questions do not hesitate to ask.

From 1st April 2024, eligible children of working parents have been able to receive 15 hours funding per week, term time from the funding term after their 2nd birthday, this equates to 38 weeks of the year.

From September this is being extended for all children of **eligible working parents** from the term after the child reaches 9 months old. For Example, if your child is born before 30th November 2023, they will be eligible from 1st September 2024. If born between 1st December 2023 and 31st March 2024 you will be able to claim, if eligible, from January 2025

In our Early Years Unit, we only operate on a full day care basis which means to stretch the funding across the 51 weeks we can only claim 11 hours per week, and a maximum of 10 hours in any one day.

Our day consists of 2 sessions 4.75 hours in the morning, and 4.75 hours in the afternoon, totally 9.75 hours in a full day, we have looked at ways of administering the 11 hours, and therefore feel the best option is to offer 2 half days or 1 whole day per week. Obviously, you can attend more sessions, and these will be charged at current rates.

If you believe you qualify for the 15 hours you will need to apply, and further information and where to apply can be found here: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>.

If eligible for the 15-hour funding you will be given an 11-digit code. We will require this code along with a completed Parent Declaration Form which we will send out nearer the time. The code will need to be refreshed every three months and you will need to be sure it is still valid from the term you want it to apply. To be valid in September you should apply after 1st June 2024. You should receive an email every 3 months to remind you to login to your account and revalidate your code but we do recommend making a diary note to remind yourselves should this not happen for any reason, if you fail to revalidate your code it may result in you losing the funding.

Parent Declaration Form. We will give you this form and ask you to complete and return to us to submit to the County claim the funding for your child.

Invoices

On your invoices you will have additional boxes showing the total number of funded hours that have been used since the start of the academic year and then your remaining balance of funding for the remainder of the academic year.

When applying for the 15 hours funding you will also be able to apply to set up a tax-free childcare account. This allows you to pay into an account and receive a top up from the government. Further details can be found on the link above but if you do not currently receive childcare vouchers and will have to pay fees then it is definitely worth setting an account up (if you currently have childcare vouchers set up through your employer then you are unable to have both and the childcare vouchers are generally better for you if you are earning above the threshold for paying tax and national insurance).

Consumables

You will I am sure be aware of the underfunding in the childcare sector and that the funding that government pays nurseries and the childcare sector per hour does not cover the actual costs of providing that service, therefore we have no choice but to charge for those extra's that are provided, such as meals etc. If you are accessing funded sessions with us you will see on the fees list the additional charges for the consumables.

I hope all this makes sense but if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully,

Jennifer Jenkins

Director