

WISHING WELL NURSERIES

76 Droitwich Road
Worcester
WR3 7HT



Tel. 01905 745168

Jennifer@wishingwellnurseries.co.uk

May 2024

Funded Early Education Funding

Dear Parents,

3 & 4 year olds

Currently all 3 and 4 year olds receive 15 hours funding from the funding term after their 3rd birthday for 38 weeks per year. Back in September 2017 the government introduced an additional 15 hours for eligible 3 and 4 year olds, bringing this up to 30 hours per week for 38 weeks. For children born between 1st April 2021 and 31st August 2021 the funding term starts from 1st September 2024.

If you are not eligible for the additional hours you will still be eligible for the Universal 15 hours per week.

If you believe you qualify you will need to apply for the additional hours. Further information on the eligibility criteria and where to apply can be found here:

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

Under 3's

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

Again applications should be made to <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

If you believe you will be eligible then you can apply online. We would ask that you wait until after 1st June 2023 to apply. This ensures that your code will still be valid on 1st September when the Autumn funding term starts and should your circumstances changes or you forget to revalidate your code before it expires it will not cause an issue for claiming the funding in September. You should receive an email from the County 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.

Once you have applied for the funding, if eligible you will be given an 11-digit code. We will require this code so that we can confirm your eligibility, and this will need to be entered on the Parent Declaration Form.

With our Wishing Well Nursery – Perdiswell only being open term time only you will be able to use up to 30 hours per week during the term time. This can be used to book any of the sessions we offer as detailed on our fees list (copies are available on our website). We also need to make you aware that your funding may not cover the full academic year. This happens as there are 38 weeks per year that are funded (190 days) but this does not mean there are 38 Mondays, 38 Tuesdays, 38 Wednesdays and so on. It may therefore mean that there will be some hours not covered by the funding which we would notify you of in the summer term (April to July 2024) and give you the choice to take your child out for the unfunded number of hours or to pay for the hours not covered by the funding at the appropriate session charge.

At Wishing Well Nursery on Droitwich Road Preschool and Wishing Well Nursery – Rainbow Hill you will have a choice as to how you book your funding. As both nurseries are open all year round you will have the choice of either using the 15/30 hours per week during term time only or of stretching the funding over the full year. If you choose to stretch your funding over the full year for those eligible for the funding in September 2024 you will have 570/1140 hours to use between September 2024 and August 2025. Droitwich Road Early Years Unit will only offer the stretched offer, as we do not offer Term Time Places.

This current year 2023/2024 we offered this as up to 11/22 funded hours per week and this will cover 52 weeks. We will apply the same in the coming academic year, unless we have any updates from the county regarding the changes to the Education Funding. The funding may run out part way through August 2025 (this will vary depending on the days your child attends and the days to which funding are allocated due to bank holidays, closure over Christmas period etc).

Change of Sessions If you wish to change your sessions from September 2024, please request a change of session form from us and return to us as soon as possible if you have not already done so with the sessions you wish to book, we will then confirm these with you. Please do not put a request for changes on the Parent Declaration Form as they will not be picked up from there.

When applying for the 30 hours funding you will also be able to apply to set up a tax free childcare account if you do not already have one. 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 funding 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).

As your child will be eligible for either the Universal 15 hours or the 30-hour funding you will be handed a Parent Declaration Form to complete.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give myself a call on 01905 745168.

Yours faithfully,

Jennifer Jenkins

Director