



Government Funded Places

We have put together some information which will help you to get your funded place set up with us.

When can I apply for a free funded place for universal hours?

Every child is eligible the term after they turn 3 years old. You can get a funding form from us at nursery and we will also be emailing one out to you well in advance. The earlier we get this set up the better it is. We can then ensure any extra hours are secured onto our computer and your bookings are reflecting the free hours. It is never too early to start the process.

If your child is 2 years old, then they may be eligible for 2 year old funding. You can find out more about this at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

New changes taking place (this is the same criteria as the current 30 hours funding)

From Apr 2024 - Up to 15 hours for eligible working families in England with a 2-year-old.

From Sept 2024 - Up to 15 hours for eligible working families in England with a child between 9 and 23 months old.

From Sept 2025 - Up to 30 hours for eligible working families in England with a child from 9 months old up to school age.

30 Hours Funding – who is this for and how do I apply?

- For working families in England
- With 3 and 4-year-old children
- 30 hours of free childcare or early education for 38 weeks. You can also stretch this across 50 weeks and have 22 hours per week
- A total of 1,140 hours per year, that you can use flexibly
- You can apply for this by going to www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

- If your child could be eligible next term, then it would be advisable to start getting applying now for your code as it could take a few weeks.
- Remember the funding starts the term after your child has their birthday.

If your child is 3 by 31 st March	The funding will start from April 1 st (please check our term start date)
If your child is 3 by 31 st August	The funding will start from Sept 1 st (please check our term start date)
If your child is 3 by 31 st December	The funding will start from January 1 st (please check our term start date)

Grace Periods – VERY IMPORTANT

Please ensure you keep your funding up to date on your government account. If you are in your grace period, you will not be able to make any changes to your funding. Also when you first obtain your code, if the end date is before the start of the term in which you want your 30 hours, you MUST update it or you will not be eligible to receive it. For example, if you your issue date was 5th January and the end date was 25th March, you would not be able to get your 30 hours for the summer term, you would have to update it. This is very important, and it is your responsibility to ensure it is updated. Our understanding is that you will have to update it every 3 months and you will receive reminders. We will do our very best to also check codes and let you know if you are in your Grace Periods but ultimately it is your responsibility.

Your funding forms.

When you complete your funding form, it is important that you give us all the information that we need to claim this money from Cornwall Council.

We will need the whole form filled out as it is all relevant to the claim. Please also ensure that you bring in some proof of birth for your child to allow us to complete that section of the form.

Please ensure that your 2-year-old code or 30-hour funding code is entered clearly onto the form. We also need the parent who applied for the funding to put their National Insurance number on the form.

Term Time or Stretched Funding

Have a think what will suit you and your child best. It is possible to change once you are set up but it can cause complications. For example, if you were to stretch one term and then go to term time the following term, you may not have enough hours.

Banked Hours

Banked hours can be difficult for us to manage. We will be audited by Cornwall Council, and we have to prove that all banked hours are being used. We do ask therefore that if you choose to bank that you decide at the start of the term when you will use these. We will then book them onto the system and ensure that they are all accurate. They must be used in the term in which they are claimed.

Increasing and decreasing your hours

There may be the need during the term for you to increase or decrease your hours. This is not a problem, but you will need to complete a new funding form with us.

Where do I send the funding form?

We can email you a funding form or send you one through Family messages.

If you are able to fill the form out on your computer, print, sign and then scan it back to us at nurseryfunding@firststepscornwall.co.uk.

Many smart phones now have an app which allows you to scan documents. The I phone has one as part of the 'notes' app

If neither of these options are possible then please collect and return one at the nursery office.

We will continue to update you and keep you informed when your child is due to start their funding. Please do also get in touch with us and help us get you all set up well in advance.

Help towards the cost of your childcare.

Tax Free Childcare

- For working families, including the self-employed, in the UK
- Earning under £100,000 and an average of £167 per week (equal to the 16 hours at the National Minimum or Living Wage) each over three months
- Who aren't receiving Tax Credits, Universal Credits or childcare vouchers
- With children 0-11 (or 0-16 if disabled)
- For every £8 you pay into an online account, the government will add an extra £2, up to £2000 per child per year.

For more information for help towards your childcare please visit

www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Please also visit.

www.supportincornwall.org.uk for more help and support for your family