Early Years Funded Entitlement

Early Years Funded Entitlement (EYFE)

There are 3 main categories of funded entitlement for families of young children – Universal Funded Entitlement, Early Learning Funded Entitlement and Extended Funded Entitlement for working families.

More information regarding Funded entitlement and Tax-Free childcare can be found at www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/childcare-early-years-education

Universal Funded Entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds

All 3 and 4 year olds can get up to 570 hours of funded childcare per year. You may have heard this referred to as "15 hours" as nurseries which only operate during term time offer 15 hours per week. As we are open during the school holidays, we have stretched this funded entitlement over 50 weeks of the year. This equates to 11 hours per week.

Early Learning Funded Entitlement for 2 year olds (LA EYFE)

To qualify for Early Learning issued EYFE, the 2 year old child either:

- has parent(s) in receipt of one or more income-based benefits
- is looked after / adopted / has a special guardianship order
- has special educational needs or a disability (SEND).

More information regarding eligibility can be found here

These two year olds are entitled to 570 hours of free childcare per year, funded by the government. You may have heard this referred to as "15 hours" as nurseries which only operate during term time offer 15 hours for 38 weeks of the year. As we are open during the school holidays, we have stretched this free entitlement over 50 weeks of the year. This equates to 11 hours per week.

Extended Funded Entitlement for working families – children aged 9 months to 4 years

The government has doubled the amount of funded entitlement available to working parents of children aged over 9 months to 1140 hours per year. This has been referred to as "30 hours" by term time only settings. We have decided to stretch this extended funded entitlement over 50 weeks of the year which means that parents can access 22 hours per week.

The Extended Funded Entitlement is available for working parents who satisfy the following criteria:

- Both parents must be working - or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family
- Each parent earns, on average, a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage
- Each parent must have an annual income of less than £100,000

More information and details on how to apply for the extended funded entitlement can be found here. You will be issued with a unique code which must be verified by Loveders prior to your child accessing their place. Please be aware that you must reconfirm your eligibility for the extended funded entitlement every three months. If you do become ineligible, there is a short grace period until the end of term where you will still receive the funded entitlement.

You can start claiming funded entitlement for your child at the following times:

9 month EYFE for working families

A child born on or between:	Will become eligible for a funded place at the start of term on or following:
1 April to 30 June	April after turning 9 months
1 July to 30 November	September after turning 9 months
1 December to 31 March	January after turning 9 months

2 Year old LA EYFE, 2 Year old EYFE for working families, Universal EYFE and 3 and 4 Year old EYFE for working families

A child born between	Will become eligible for 2 year old LA EYFE or EYFE for working families at start of term following:	Will become eligible for universal EYFE or EYFE for working families st start of term following:
1 January to 31 March	April after turning 2	April after turning 3
1 April to 31 August	September after turning 2	September after turning 2
1 September to 31 December	January after turning 2	January after turning 3

Children should have started attending their sessions by the headcount day in order to receive the Funded Entitlement for that term. There are 3 headcount days per year when the council collect data on the children claiming Funded Entitlement.

Term	WSCC Headcount Day
Summer 2026	Thursday 30th April 2026
Autumn 2026	Thursday 17th September 2026
Spring 2027	Thursday 21st January 2026

If a child starts attending their sessions after headcount but before DfE termly census dates, a claim for funding can be made via and adjustment process.

Term	DfE Census Day
Summer 2026	Thursday 21st May 2026
Autumn 2026	Thursday 1st October 2026
Spring 2027	Thursday 21st January 2027

Please note that for the spring term the DfE Census day is the same as WSCC headcount day.

In exceptional circumstances, claims for Funded Entitlement after the headcount may be accepted if approved by the Local Authority.

Additional Charges for the Early Years Funded Entitlement for working parents.

The funded entitlement only covers the cost of childcare and does not cover the cost of food, consumables extra-curricular activities and excursions.

All of our meals are prepared on site, from scratch, by our catering team. For breakfast, children can choose from a range of low sugar cereals and toast; for lunch children are given a choice of 2 main courses served with at least 3 vegetable options and 2 forms of carbohydrate such as potatoes, pasta or cous cous; tea is a lighter meal for example jacket potatoes with a choice of fillings or pasta bake. Fresh fruit is served as dessert at lunchtime (or with plain Greek yoguhurt for the babies) as well as mid-morning and mid-afternoon snacks such as rice cakes, breadsticks, crackers or vegetable crudites. We feel it is very important that the children have choices at lunchtimes so that even the fussiest eaters find plenty of options. We are happy to cater for special dietary requirements and allergies.

Consumables include nappies, nappy sacks, wipes, toiletries and sun cream

Extra-Curricular classes include Music, , Yoga and Lodge-Time which comprises of small group activities such as woodwork and sewing. We also have regular visits from external professionals such as Zoolab. Recent examples of trips and excursions include Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Lordington Lavendar Farm, Dell Quay, Kingley Vale, Bluebell Woods, Thorney Island Beach, Apple Orchard, plus many nearby parks, woods, garden centres, shops and libraries. Extra Curricular activities are age appropriate and increase as the children move through the different rooms of the nursery.

The funded entitlement hours can be taken between 8am and 6pm. Any hours taken above the 11 / 22 hours funded entitlement will be charged to the nearest half hour. The costs apply to your pre-booked sessions only. Any ad hoc, extra bookings will be charged at our standard rates.

Additional Charges for Little Lovederes (9 months)

	AM	PM	School Day	Full Day
Food	£3 Breakfast, mid-morning snack and lunch	£3 Afternoon snack and tea	£3 Breakfast, two snacks and lunch	£6 Breakfast, lunch, tea and two snacks
Consumables	£3	£3	£6	£6
Extra-Curricular				
Additional Hours	£9.50	£9.50	£9.50	£9.50

Additional Charges for Nurture (2 years)

	AM	PM	School Day	Full Day
Food	£5.50 Breakfast, mid-morning snack and lunch	£3.50 Afternoon snack and tea	£5.50 Breakfast, two snacks and lunch	£9 Breakfast, lunch, tea and two snacks
Consumables	£3	£3	£5	£5
Extra-Curricular	£1	£1	£1	£1
Additional Hours	£9.50	£9.50	£9.50	£9.50

Additional Charges for Nursery (3 and 4 years)

	AM	PM	School Day	Full Day
Food	£9 Breakfast, mid-morning snack and lunch	£4.50 Afternoon snack and tea	£9 Breakfast, two snacks and lunch	£11 Breakfast, lunch, tea and two snacks
Consumables	£1.50	£1.50	£3	£3
Extra-Curricular	£6.50	£6.50	£11	£11
Additional Hours	£7.25	£7.25	£7.25	£7.25

Stand Alone / Free Funded Entitlement Sessions

We have a limited number of stand-alone sessions available for parents entitled to the funded entitlement. These can be taken in the afternoon and have no charge.

Should a parent be unable or unwilling to pay our additional charges at times outside our stand-alone sessions they can chose to opt out of the extra-curricular activities and excursions and provide their own consumables and food (which is subject to our nutrition and allergies policies). Further details will be provided in our opt-out policy. If a parent does decide to opt out of the additional charges, they must opt out of everything i.e the children will not attend the extra-curricular activities or classes, go on the excursions or be provided with meals, snacks or toiletries and consumables. The children benefit hugely from the opportunities above and beyond the EYFS curriculum provided by Lovedersand we could not offer the quality and scope of our current provision without charging, so it is our expectation that parents do pay.. Please be aware that priority will be given to parents who pay for additional charges as detailed in our admissions policy.

Flexible Session Times

We offer a wide range of full day sessions with start times every half hour between 7:30 am and 9am and finish times every half hour between 4pm and 6pm. Morning sessions include lunch and finish at 1pm. Afternoon sessions start at 1pm and can finish every half hour between 4pm and 6pm. Tea is served at 4:30pm.

Full Time Discounts

Any children attending for 40 or more hours per week will have a 5% discount applied to their bill and any children attending for 50 or more hours will have a 10% discount applied to their bill.

Early Opening

We open at 7:30 am and the charge for the half hour before 8am is £4.75

Meal Times

Breakfast is served between 7:30am and 8:30am, Lunch is served between 12pm and 1pm and Tea is served between 4:30pm and 5pm.

Using the Funded Entitlement at more than one setting

Parents can split their funded entitlement among more than one setting registered to receive the funding; however, they can only attend a maximum of two settings in one day. Priority for places will be given to parents who wish to utilise all their funded entitlement at Loveders.

Notice Period

We require four weeks written notice for any reduction or termination of sessions. If insufficient notice is given, you will still be liable for fees.

Our normal term and conditions relating to fees will apply. Please refer to our fee schedule.

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

EYPP is additional funding for early years settings to improve the education they provide for children accessing EYFE. EYPP is paid to the settings alongside EYFE (extended hours exempt). Children do not need to take up their full entitlement to receive it. EYPP will be paid in proportion to the child's actual FE hours.

For Loveders to be able to claim for your child, you will need to provide the following information:

- Parent / carer's full legal name, date of birth and National Insurance or National Asylum Support Service number
- Evidence that the child has been in local authority care for one day or more in England or Wales
- Evidence proving the child has been adopted from local authority care, left care through a special guardianship order or is subject to a child arrangements order.

Loveders will determine best use of the funding by assessing the needs of eligible children, and with consultation with parents. We may also seek advice from West Sussex County Council.

More info found here

Disability Access Fund (DAF)

DAF is a measure which aids access to early years places by, for example, supporting providers in making reasonable adjustments to their settings and/or helping with building capacity, be that for the child in question or for the benefit of children as a whole attending the setting. DAF is a fund that can be paid once per year.

Children will be eligible for the DAF if they meet the following criteria:

- the child is in receipt of child Disability Living Allowance (DLA); and
- the child receives EYFE.

For Lovederes to able to claim DAF for your child, you will need to provide the following:

- A newly completed Parent Declaration, completed to confirm you would like Lovederes to apply for DAF on behalf of your child; and
- a copy of a letter confirming your child's current eligibility for DLA

To determine best use of the funding, Lovederes will assess the needs of the child, consult with parents, and seek support from West Sussex County Council where required.

You can find out more information by reading West Sussex County Council's DAF guidance for more information, including funding amounts, here.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
01/09/2026		*01/09/2027*