

## La Petite Academy

### Funded Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) Information Sheet

Government funding is provided to support parents with nursery fees at different ages, with more funding being rolled out so that all children of 'working parents' can access funded care from the term after their child turns 9 months old by September 2025. More information on this can be found at <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/upcoming-changes-to-childcare-support/>

Although we are open 52 weeks of the year, the way the Government work out funding is linked to school term times and is for 38 weeks of the year only. That means that if you attend for more than 38 weeks per year, we 'stretch' your funded hours so that you always pay the same price per session to enable families to budget effectively.

#### **How do I find out if I am eligible?**

All families with 3 and 4 year olds, can access 15 weekly hours of funded care. Some families of 3 and 4 year olds can also access an additional 15 hours if parents are in work.

From April 2024 some families of 2 year olds will be able to access 15 hours of funding if parents are in work, and the same amount of funding is available for children with working parents from 9 months old from September 2024. This will increase to 30 hours from September 2025 for all children in these two groups.

You can find out what funding you are currently entitled to by visiting <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> and entering your details. This page will also help you to claim tax free childcare, tax credits for childcare, universal credit for childcare and support whilst you study.

Some families of 2 year olds are eligible for 'Flying Start' funding for 15 hours of care. This is issued by the Local Authority and you can find out more at <https://www.derby.gov.uk/community-and-living/family-hub-childcare/childcare-and-early-years-education/funded-early-learning-2-year-olds> . Families need to be in receipt of certain benefits for this funding.

The nursery cannot help you to determine what your entitlement is as this is dependent on several factors.

If your child is under 3 years old and you do not meet the government criteria for 'working parents' then you will not be entitled to any of these funded hours.

#### **How do I prove I am eligible?**

If you are eligible for working parent funding, you will receive a code which you will need to keep safe as you need to write it on your FEEE

form every term. Your 30-hour code also needs revalidating every term to keep it updated. If you do not revalidate this code, then you may lose access to the additional 15 hours of care and be liable to pay for it yourself. The code itself will stay the same. Although the nursery will endeavour to remind parents to revalidate their code, this is the responsibility of the parent.

If you are eligible for flying start funding, once you have your code you do not need to revalidate it again.

All children are entitled to 15 hours funding from the term after they turn 3. You do not need a code at all if you are just having your 15 hours entitlement.

### **When will my child receive their funding?**

Funding starts from the term after the child's birthday. Children born 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> December access funding from January; children born 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March access funding from April; and children born 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> August access funding from September.

When the funding starts for children from 9 months old, again this will be the term after they turn 9 months. For example, if your child is 9 months old in May, they will be eligible for funded hours from September.

### **How do I receive the funded hours at nursery?**

Funding can be taken as 'term time only' over 38 weeks of the year, or 'stretched' over 47.5 or 52 weeks of the year.

You choose how to 'spend' your hours each week and sign up to this package each term on a funding form which we will give you. Without the completed, signed form being returned with your code on (where relevant) we cannot access your funding and you will be eligible to pay for any hours taken.

#### **Term Time Only Funding**

Term time only places are: 8am – 1pm or 1pm – 6pm (5 hours per session across as many mornings and/or afternoons as you have funding for); 9am – 3pm (30 hours, 5 sessions per week) or 9am – 4:30pm (15 hours, 2 sessions per week or 30 hours, 4 sessions per week). If you want additional care outside of these times, then you can purchase wrap around care before and/or after these session times and in school holidays, which is detailed on our pricing structures. If you would like to use your funded hours against a full day, 7:30am to 6pm, you can allocate up to 7.5 funded hours per day.

#### **Stretched Funding**

Stretched funding enables parents to send their child to nursery for 52 weeks per year, with the equivalent of 22 hours per week being funded

for 30 hour places, and 11 hours per week funded for 15 hour places. Or for 47.5 weeks per year, with 24 or 12 hours per week funded. These children will not attend nursery for the first week of the Easter holidays, the first two full weeks of August and the two weeks of the Christmas holidays.

Stretched funding sessions are 7:30am to 1:15pm, 7:30am to 6pm, 8:30am to 3:30pm, 9am to 4pm or 1:15pm to 6pm. Please refer to the pricing structures for current prices for the different sessions. No stretched places are completely free as they all include wrap around care and meal costs.

Due to the way that stretched funding is allocated across the year, children born between 1<sup>st</sup> September and 30<sup>th</sup> March will have either 2 or 3 weeks in the first year of funding when they will not receive funding. Unless parents state otherwise, then full price will be charged for these weeks. Please see the Admissions Policy for more information. Should your child leave mid-term on stretched funding, or move from stretched to term time only, your yearly funding allocation will need to be reworked and there may be a top up balance required.

### **How do I tell nursery what my eligibility is?**

Every term we will send you a FEEE form to complete. If you are a two-parent household then both parents' details must be included. All yellow highlighted sections need completing, including the consent form and parent declaration. Please ask if you need help to do this, particularly with section 8. When you send the form back to nursery, we then complete section 9.

You will be given a deadline for returning the form each term, this is linked to the Local Authority timescales for payment of funding. Late return of forms can result in your child not being allocated your preferred session or loss of funded hours and/or place at the setting.

### **Can I have a free place at nursery?**

Although the Government do advertise the funded hours as 'free' you will still have to pay for meals and any additional hours taken as wrap around care or stretched funding.

Each term we have 4 fully funded free places where parents provide packed lunches. There is usually a waiting list for these places so please speak to a manager as soon as possible if you would like one. If you take up a fully funded free place you are not able to purchase meals as a 'one off' or have any food chilled/heated up for you.

All other places have a charge for meals and/or additional hours.

However, due to the increase in the hourly rate that we are currently receiving for children under the age of 3, the nursery owners have decided

to pass on the savings to parents, meaning that a few of our sessions for under 3s can currently be taken with meals at no cost.

### **How do I know how much I will have to pay?**

We provide pricing structures (otherwise known as fee schedules) for all the different options available to you. We do not organise bespoke sessions outside of these structures. When you are choosing your session package you will identify this on your FEEE form. If we cannot provide the sessions requested, you will be contacted to arrange an alternative.

There are different prices depending on the number of weeks your child attends and the type of funding they get. Please be aware that as your child moves into a different age bracket for funding it will become more expensive as we will not have the additional savings to pass on to you.

Invoices are emailed to parents on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for the following month's fees. This will require payment to clear in our bank by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month to which it relates.

### **Do I have to use all of my hours?**

No. You sign up each term to let us know the hours you wish to use. This can then be increased or decreased, usually at the start of the following term. Due to the way that we are given the funding money by the local authority there is a deadline each term by which to make any changes. Please ask for a 'session change' form should you wish to make a mid-term change, but this is not always possible.

### **Can I use Tax Free Childcare (TFC) alongside funding?**

Yes, you can use this scheme to save up to 20% on your childcare costs, as long as you are a taxpayer and aren't receiving Tax Credits, Universal Credit or childcare vouchers. You can be self-employed. TFC needs revalidating every 3 months. Again, visit [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) to check if you are eligible.

All of our pricing structures show an indicative cost when TFC is applied.

If you cannot use TFC as you are on Universal Credit (<https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit>), do speak with your job centre advisor as you may be eligible to have up to 85% of your childcare fees paid.

We hope that you find this information useful. If you would like any further clarification, please speak to a manager.

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