

FEE POLICY AND NURSERY GRANTS (updated July 2022)

Please note: When your child starts at Little Acorns, we will need to see his/her birth certificate, to confirm the date of birth, in order to claim funding when they are eligible.

Fees

For children not yet entitled to the 3/4 year old nursery grant funding (the term after they turn 3 years old), a fee is charged of £6 an hour. Fees are payable for all sessions booked from the child's start date, except in extreme cases, e.g. long term illness, under the discretion of the management team. We do not charge for sessions if there is a bank holiday, staff inset day or closure due to an emergency.

Parents/carers receive an invoice at the start of each term for the hours that the child is booked into for the whole of that term. If you would like to increase/decrease your child's hours during the term, please give two weeks written notice and we will adjust your invoice accordingly.

If you would like to terminate your place at Little Acorns, please give two weeks written notice. We will refund any payments made for hours that would have been attended from the date of termination.

Little Acorns Pre-school offers flexible payment facilities for families with differing means, e.g. weekly, half termly. If a family has difficulties in paying fees please speak to Clare.

Nursery Grant

We are open term time only, so once your child is eligible for funding, it can only be used during that time. Therefore, not stretched over any school holiday periods.

3 year old funding

Children are entitled to up to 15 hours of free nursery education, beginning from the term after they turn 3yrs. Please note, parents may wish to also book their child with another provider (pre-school/nursery/childminder etc) and can use their hours between the two settings. There is 30 hour funding available for those that meet the criteria.

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/childcare/childcare-funding/30-hours-funded-childcare-for-3-and-4-year-olds>

2 year old funding

There is also funding available for 2 year olds, if parents meet certain criteria.

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/childcare/childcare-funding/15-hours-funded-childcare-for-2-year-olds>

Parents are asked to complete a nursery grant form each term indicating the number of hours entitlement claimed by Little Acorns and other providers. The pre-school then uses this information to claim the grant money for each child.

Once a child is eligible for the Nursery Grant entitlement, attendance is free unless you go over the 15 hours (30 if you are eligible). For any hours attended over these hours a fee will be charged at £6 an hour. In the case of a child attending more than one setting, parents have the choice of where they 'spend' their child's Nursery Grant, and where they will pay fees for the additional hours.

We can also claim additional **Pupil Premium** funding for those families that meet the criteria. All parents are given a form before a child starts to assess whether their child will be eligible for Pupil Premium. This is a voluntary registration consent form and will be in your child's starter pack.

We use our knowledge of the child and parental information to best spend this money to help progress the child.

Please also refer to our Childcare Funding Information icon online for other funding information.