



Funding Policy

Acorn to Oak Nursery and Preschool currently offers places for children who are funded through 15 and 30 hours of free childcare. This policy sets out the local procedures of how funded children's places are tracked, audited, and termly reviewed to ensure full compliance at all times.

Policy

The portal for estimates opens at the end of the previous term that the estimates represent. Upon the opening of the portal, the office management staff will work in hand with the finance director to notify all parents of the need renew their 30-hour eligibility code (if applicable) and to sign the Parent Authorisation Form (PAF) that resides at the nursery.

After estimates are completed, the portal will close. Should the local authority have any queries regarding the provided data, the finance director will liaise with the office staff and possibly specified parents to resolve the issue.

The office management staff will then work with the finance director to ensure that all funding forms are signed prior to the actuals closeout date. All data will be input into the portal by headcount day after confirming that all claimed children are on roll.

Parents must have signed the PAF by this day.

After actuals are completed, the portal will close. Should the local authority have any queries regarding the provided data, the finance director will liaise with the office staff and possibly specified parents to resolve the issue.

All users of the portal have their own individual account per the directives set out by the local authority. Once a user no longer requires an account, an email must be sent to early.years@achievingforchildren.org.uk to delete it and remove access.



Acorn to Oak Nursery and Preschool

Guide to Stretched Early Education Funding

Early years funding is paid term time only for a maximum of 15 universal and 15 extended hours a week for 38 weeks per year. This is split into 3 termly claims: 14 weeks in autumn, 12 in spring and 12 in summer. If you have childcare for more than 38 weeks a year you may use a stretched model to allow less hours per week over more weeks of the year.

The funding can be stretched up to a maximum number of weeks that the setting is open and available for childcare. For example, we are open for 51 weeks of the year so please refer to the appropriate area of the chart below.

A child can access a maximum of 570 universal hours and 570 extended hours of funded childcare per year. An example of calculating funding and charges annually is as follows

Child A attends nursery for 3 days (30 hours) per week over 51 weeks of the year. A total of 1,530 hours of childcare. They are entitled to extended (30) hours, therefore up to 1,140 of the hours can be accessed as funded to the parent. This leaves a total of 390 additional childcare hours that can be charged for at the rate agreed between the provider and the parent and split into 12 equal payments. Please note that there is a consumables charge added to your bill. Please read our Funding policy for full information.

Number of weeks open	Max. funded hours per week when accessing universal 15 hours	Max. funded hours per week when accessing extended 30 hours
52	10.96	21.92
51	11.18	22.36
50	11.4	22.8
49	11.63	23.26
48	11.88	23.76

Additional information about stretched funding

If your child starts to access the 3 year funding in September then the highlighted row will apply but if you child's first time of accessing stretched funding is in January or April then different number of hours will apply as follows

Funding from January - Stretched funded hours allocated will be 10 universal hours or 20 universal and extended hours.

Funding from April - Stretched funded hours allocated will be 8 universal hours or 16 hours universal and extended hours.