

Current version: September 2025 **Next review due:** September 2026

This policy sets out how families can access funded early education and childcare at **The Young England Kindergartens (YEK)**.

Our nursery is committed to fair, transparent, and accessible provision, while also maintaining the high standards of care and education that families expect from us.

Accessing Funded Entitlement Hours

All children eligible for funded early education are able to access their universal or extended entitlement hours at our setting free of charge, with no obligation to purchase additional hours.

Available Funding Schemes

1. Universal Entitlement Funding for 3 & 4 year olds (15 hours per week): All families are entitled from the term after your child's 3rd birthday. No eligibility criteria.
2. Extended 15 hr Funding for 3 & 4 year olds (30 hours per week): Families may be eligible for this scheme from the term after their child's 3rd birthday. Subject to eligibility criteria.
3. Government's Working Family Entitlement Funding for 2 year olds (30 hours per week): Families may be eligible for this scheme from the term after their child's 2nd birthday. Subject to eligibility criteria.
4. Busy 2s Funding (15 hour per week): Families may be eligible for this scheme from the term after their child's 2nd birthday. Subject to eligibility criteria.

Further information: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

What is Extended Free Entitlement Funding?

Parents who meet the eligibility criteria can claim extended Government funding (see schemes 2 & 3 above) in addition to the Universal Entitlement Funding (15 hours per week). Extended FE Funding covers up to 30 (attended) hours per week and is available to families where:

- Both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a single-parent family)
- Each parent earns a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage, and less than £100,000 per year.
- This includes parents who are employed and self-employed.

Delivery

Funded hours are available between 8.30/45 am to 3.30 pm, depending on your child's session (e.g. Caterpillar or Butterfly) offered across 33 weeks of the academic year.

Parents may request a place that uses only the funded entitlement, subject to limited availability and the nursery's ability to offer these places if it is financially sustainable at the time.

Additional Hours and the Nursery Services & Consumables Package

The government funding rates (currently set at £7.67 per hour for 3–4-year-olds and £10.87 per hour for Busy2s and Working Family 2-year-olds) do not cover the true cost of delivering the high-quality care and education we provide. In particular, they do not cover food, additional hours, consumables, curriculum enrichment, or the wider services that families value at YEK. In common with most nurseries, we will ask parents to pay for these so we can carry on providing the very best care and experiences.

Families accessing funded hours are asked to contribute towards our **Nursery Services & Consumables Package**, shown as an 'Extras and Essentials' charge on termly invoices. This contribution will be itemised as a termly charge.

What the package covers

- Snacks
- Additional hours
- Consumables (e.g. nappies, wipes, sun cream, craft and school materials)
- Teaching materials and classroom resources
- Enrichment activities (e.g. yoga, music, drama, nature classes, languages)
- Outings and workshops
- Administration and operational costs

Please refer to the Fee Structure for a full termly breakdown of the current rates for Nursery Services & Consumables Package, which includes additional hours and enrichment activities.

If a parent is unable or unwilling to pay, we ask that they speak with the School Business Manager to discuss options. Please note that non-payment has both an operational and financial impact on the nursery and without contributions, we cannot sustain the level of service and experiences that distinguish our provision.

Invoicing and Payments

Invoices for additional hours and services are issued **termly** in advance, with clear itemisation. If families choose to apply for funding, the amount of funded hours will be itemised on your invoice with a value of '0' to show that these hours are free from the point of delivery.

Payment options are available and we will support families experiencing financial difficulties wherever possible.

Notice Periods and Refunds

For changes or withdrawals, **we require one term's** notice. Refunds are not issued for absences (e.g. sickness or holidays) unless agreed in exceptional circumstances.

Contact and Support

For any queries about eligibility, funding, or charges, please contact the School Business Manager:

Henry King

henry@youngenglandkindergarten.co.uk

Families can check their eligibility and apply for extended entitlements at:
<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>