



Babraham Nursery

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Early Years Funding Offer from September 2025

31st July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

Babraham Nursery recognises that families warmly welcome the funding support given by the DfE and we have been successfully supporting families by offering early years funding for many years. There is no legal requirement for settings to offer funding; to remain sustainable and financially viable we are only able to offer funding during fixed sessions over the week. Funded hours at Babraham are offered on a stretched basis over 51 weeks of the year and are limited to afternoons only, please see the accompanying fee sheet for further information. The link below provides families with more information around funding, eligibility and how to apply for funding. Eligibility for funding is determined by the HMRC, not nursery.

[15 and 30 hours childcare support | Childcare Choices](#)

Eligibility

There are three types of funding: **Working Parent entitlement, Universal funding and funding for some families receiving additional forms of support.**

- From September 2025 some families may be eligible for **Working Parent funding (1140 hours per year)** from the term after their child turns 9 months of age until the 31st August of the term before starting school.
- Some families may be eligible for 570 hours funding per year from the term after turning 2 years of age if they are receiving additional forms of support. For more information please look at the following link: [Eligibility | Childcare Choices](#)
- All children become eligible for **Universal funding (570 hours funding per year)** from the term after they turn 3 years of age (until 31st August of the term before starting school).

To receive funding (apart from Universal) families must apply to the HMRC, within the given timeframe.

Families who are eligible will receive a code, which is then given to the setting to validate.

The Working Parent funding can only be approved by HMRC, which the parent takes all responsibility for claiming eligibility using the HMRC website. If eligible, the website will provide the parent with an eligibility code, which must then be given to the Provider. This code will then be checked by the Provider with the Council before confirmation of the extra hours funding can be given to the family. Eligibility must be reconfirmed at dates specified by HMRC or the funding will be withdrawn. Please note, this along with the deadlines for applying, are completely beyond our control.

Please note, the nursery is unable to offer the Working Parent entitlement to any family without a valid code.

Fee Structure using the Early Years Funding

The DfE introduced an Early Years National Single Funding Formula in 2017. Cambridgeshire's current overall rate of funding is substantially lower than the actual cost to a provider that offers high quality childcare and employs a highly qualified workforce. Like other nurseries, we have found that this rate per hour has affected our ability to flexibly offer funding. Therefore, we are only able to offer set funded hours per day.

Although the offer is headlined from the DfE as 30 hours per week, this is **term time only**. **The total offer equates to a maximum of 1140 hours per year**. Settings have been instructed to create their own offers around the entitlement and to inform parents of what they will be offering, if they choose to offer the extra entitlement. **Therefore, as a nursery offering full day care, all year round, we offer a stretched, 51-week offer only**. The 1140 hours equates to 22.35 hours per week, (or 5 hours and 34.8 minutes each day over 4 afternoon sessions). We have found that the stretched hours make our fees across the year more consistent for our families, as the same fee is incurred each week. Please note, we no longer offer one day/session only bookings to new families.

Fee structure

Our funded sessions are fixed to certain times of day, with part of the day being funded and the other part chargeable. According to the DfE the funding is to deliver high quality childcare, and it is not intended to cover the costs of meals, extra hours, consumables or additional activities outside of delivering the EYFS. However, we have decided currently, not to charge for additional services or tea and snacks during the funded periods, instead aiming to make the fee structure as easy and as clear as possible.

From September we will be offering the following fee structure to all families, according to our admissions criteria and availability of spaces:

Time of day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.45-12.10	Fee payable	Fee payable	Fee payable	Fee payable	Fee payable
12.10-5.45 5.58 hours per day	Funded Or charged if not eligible or used all funding	Funded Or charged if not eligible or used all funding	Funded Or charged if not eligible or used all funding	Funded Or charged if not eligible or used all funding	Funded Or charged if not eligible or used all funding

Funding can be shared with up to three settings in total, meaning that if you are unable to use all your child's funding with us, you may be able to use another registered provider. If you plan to also use another provider, please let the office know so that we can ensure there is no overlap in claims with the other setting/settings. Failure to ensure the correct information may result in funding being withheld by the Council until it is resolved.

Families eligible for Universal Entitlement only

Universal entitlement will be stretched into the 51-week offer only, equating to 11.17 hours per week, or 2 funded sessions, 51 weeks of the year. If you would like further clarification on this, please speak to the office.

Parental Contract

The term before your child becomes eligible for early years funding and each September you will receive a Parental Contract form from Cambridgeshire County Council. This will be given to you by Nursery. **Please complete and return this form to Babraham Nursery**. We hope that you feel our offer is fair and consistent to all.

Kind regards,

Alison Bishop

On behalf of the Babraham Institute