

Early Years Funding Guide

A simple guide on how to access government funding at Ambourne House



Simplifying Funding

An explanation on Early Years funding 2025/2026

We know navigating the different support schemes available in the early years can be complex. But getting it right can make a big difference to the cost of sending your child to nursery.

Our Early Years Funding Guide tries to simplify everything, empowering you to make the best choices for your family's needs. For further detail on a range of Government childcare support options please visit www.beststartinlife.gov.uk.

What Funding is available?

You may have heard about 15 Hours or 30 Hours funding. But what exactly is it?

15 and 30 hours is the number of hours per week that families can access government funding during the 38 weeks of term time. Up until very recently, generally only families with children aged 3 to 5 could benefit, along with families already in receipt of other government support with children aged 2.

Younger children are now set to benefit from the expansion of the subsidy, which is being phased in gradually to give nurseries more time to meet the rising demand from families

Since September 2024, eligible working parents of children

aged 9 months and over have been able to access 15 hours

From September 2025, eligible working parents of children aged from 9 months up will be able to access 30 hours



Who is eligible?

The expansion of 15 and 30 hours is aimed at working families.

What qualifies as a “Working family”?

- You, and any partner, must each expect to earn (on average) at least £167 per week
- If you, or your partner, are on maternity, paternity or adoption leave, or you're unable to work because you are disabled or have caring responsibilities, you could still be eligible
- The Government does not include you in their definition of working family if you, or your partner, each individually expect to earn £100,000 or more per year

If you do not meet the Government’s working family definition, your child will still be eligible for 15 hours funding the term after they turn 3.

In addition, if your family already receives other government support, you may be eligible for 15 hours funding after your child turns 2.

How Can I apply?

You will need a valid eligibility code from HMRC to claim either 15 or 30 hours.

1. **Check you are eligible** – find out about whether you are eligible at www.gov.uk/free-childcare-if-working/apply-for-free-childcare-if-youre-working
2. **Check when you can apply** – you need to apply the term before you want to take up the place.
3. **Apply for your childcare code** – if eligible, you will get an online childcare account and a code for funded hours. If you use Tax Free Childcare, once you reconfirm your entitlement, you will then receive your code.
4. **Give the code to us** – along with your national insurance number and your child’s date of birth. We check if your code is valid.
5. **Complete a parent declaration form** – Return form to the Nursery Management Team.
6. **Start accessing 15 or 30 Hours** – we will claim funding directly from the local authority and apply the funding to your invoice.
7. **Reconfirm** – you must confirm your details are up to date every 3 months or your code expires. You will receive a reminder to do this.



How we offer funding a Ambourne House

Making funding work for working families

Stretched funding

The Government only offers funded hours during the 38 weeks of term time which equates to 570 hours a year for 15 hours, or 1,140 hours a year for 30 hours.

Whilst this makes sense for schools, at Ambourne we have designed our offering to suit the needs of working families and to ensure your bills don't escalate in non- term time.

We stretch the total hours available to you across the year which is approximately 11.18 hours per week for 15 hours and 22.35 hours per week for 30 hours.

Convenience

We offer funded hours within our regular session times, offering convenience and continuity for working parents.

For those eligible for 30 hours funding, families can sign up for up to 21 funded hours per week over three School days. The balance of the funded hours may then be used against another full session.

15 hours funding can be used across a full day session or a School days, the balance used against another session, to enable parents to maximise their funding with no artificial breaks in the day.

Combine your savings

By accessing 15 hours, you will be able to save approximately £3,000 per year per child. This will be increased to

£6,000 per year with 30 hours.

In addition, by using the Tax-Free Childcare scheme, you will be able to save up to an additional £2,000 per year per child.



Extracurriculars, meals and other additional charges

Fostering your child's learning and development

While government funding supports the basic delivery of the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage), it does not cover the cost of meals, health and hygiene supplies or extracurricular activities. At Ambourne House, we provide an all-inclusive, integrated service that reflects our commitment to supporting every child's development, wellbeing, and daily experience, as well as maximising convenience for our busy parents.

To keep things straightforward, we apply charges that reflect the respective cost of our provision that enrich your child's time with us. Please speak with one of our management team who can work out what your monthly fees will be—inclusive of these additional charges, with no hidden surprises.

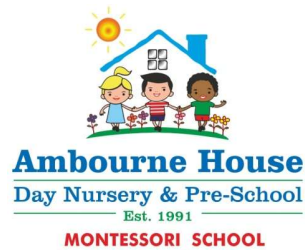
Participation in our integrated offering is not a condition for accessing a funded place. If you're considering any changes, please speak with the nursery manager to discuss your options. Any updates must apply for the full term and require six weeks' notice prior to the start of term.

Our extracurricular programme

Our extracurricular programme is designed to give our children additional learning experiences which broaden their horizons. Over and above the Early Years Foundation Stage, our extracurriculars are woven throughout the nursery week and taught by our nursery teams, who are specially trained to lead them and can respond to every individual child's needs and interests.

Our **Forest School** sessions give children the opportunity to connect or reconnect with the world around them and find balance. Supported by our very own book and song-based Forest School curriculum, children are able to explore the outdoors, move, make, and be creative. We believe that every child needs to understand the world around them, and their place within it. That's why we support our children to go on **trips** – whether that be out & about in the community or further afield to a museum, theatre, or natural beauty spot. Driven by their interests, these will vary from group to group.





Cooking is a fantastic activity with countless learning opportunities. Developing their language and literacy skills, as well their understanding of maths and measurements, cooking supports children's understanding of where their food comes from and let's them marvel at their delicious creations.

A core part of our commitment to every child's wellbeing, our **yoga & mindfulness** sessions build resilience and support their physical development and emotional regulation. Creating moments of calm and reflection, these activities give children the tools to navigate the busy world around them.

Rooted in the **Montessori philosophy**, this programme helps children explore the world through dance, sculpture, music, dramatic play and science. Offering children rich, immersive learning experiences that are meaningful, joyful, and driven by curiosity.

We love being right at the heart of our communities, which is why we run regular seasonal events to celebrate key milestones and bring our families together. Unique to each nursery, our events include **Sports days, Graduations, Summer fetes and Winter parties.**

Our teams are on hand to answer any questions that you have relating to fees and funding. Please feel free to contact the nursery manager for more information.

