

# Funded Places Information for Parents

## Government Childcare Funding

In the Budget in March 2023, the Chancellor announced the expansion of what they call ‘free’ childcare to **eligible** families of all pre-school children from aged 9 months.

- From April 2024, 2 year olds will be eligible for up to 15 hours per week
- From September 2024, children aged 9 months to 2 years will be eligible for up to 15 hours per week
- From September 2025, all children over the age of 9 months will be eligible for up to 30 hours per week.

Funded hours may be taken during school term time or ‘stretched’ to up to 52 weeks of the year, but with less hours per week being funded.

To be eligible, each parent must earn the equivalent of 16 hours a week at minimum wage, up to £100,000.

Although the government calls these hours ‘free childcare’, their own figures obtained via a Freedom of Information Request states that the level of funding only covers two thirds of the cost of providing a place.

**For the childcare place to be viable, the additional cost must be met**

## Accessibility

There are currently shortages of childcare places, so not all parents who are eligible will be able to be guaranteed a funded place for their child. There is no legal requirement for any childminder, nursery, or pre-school to offer government funded places. Currently it is the additional hours and younger children who make childcare places sustainable as this meets the gap between government funding and what a childminder usually charges. As the scheme is expanded, to almost all children, this creates more difficulties for the childminder to cover costs and offer a quality and sustainable childminding service.

## **Ways early years settings can be sustainable**

- Limit the number of hours in a day that can attract government funding, with parents paying for the additional hours.
- Limit the number of funded children present during the day
- Request parents pay a voluntary contribution – usually a small hourly charge
- Request parents pay a charge for consumables
- Only offer private places

At Awe and Wonder Childminding I offer two options for using your funding which are either:

**I offer funded places during term time only which is 38 weeks per year. School holiday care is still available but to be paid directly at normal hourly rate.**

**OR**

**I offer funded places stretched to 48 weeks per year as parents require.**

**Please note that:**

- 15 hours entitlement is 570 hours in a year
- 30 hours entitlement is 1140 hours in a year

These figures will be used when calculating any top required to be paid by families for stretched funding or additional hours.

- 15 hours over 48 weeks is 11.87 hours a week
- 30 hours over 48 weeks is 23.75 hours a week

- I reserve the right to only provide private childcare places
- I offer both funded childcare places per day and also offer private places during the day
- I do not request any additional charges to funded places other than top up to ensure I receive payment for all hours of care I provide.