

## 4.6 Free Early Education Entitlement policy

### Introduction

Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) is the name given to the early education childcare parents may receive free of charge, funded by the Government.

Little Troopers Day Nursery currently offers places for all three current Government schemes in operation, some of which are based on selective criteria and normally income based and therefore not open to all parents.

The availability and terms & conditions of each scheme is changeable by the Government and therefore the nursery will review its planned offer to parents on an annual basis.

The nursery will review the FEEE policy annually in April, this is when the Government releases the operating guidelines and Oxfordshire County Council confirm their provider terms and conditions for the following academic year.

The nursery's new FEEE policy will be released in July for the following academic year.

### Current Government schemes

There are currently three funded schemes in operation, as follows:

#### For children aged 2-3 years

- 2-Year-Old Free Childcare (570-hour offer) for children aged 2-3 years (see pages 2-3)

#### For children aged 3 & 4 years

- 15 hours per week FEEE (570-hour offer), known as 'Universal Hours' (see pages 4-6)
- 30 hours per week FEEE (1140-hour offer), known as the 'Extended Hours' (see page 6-10)

The Government has also launched Tax Free Childcare, similarly to current parent voucher schemes this scheme requires parents to pay into a childcare account with the Government also making a financial contribution. Further details about this scheme are available on page 10.

### Policy Aim

Within this policy the nursery has detailed:

- The criteria you must meet to be considered for each of the funded schemes.
- How you may apply.
- When your child can start.
- What your child is entitled to.
- How long your child will receive the funded place.
- The terms and conditions outlined by the Government and our nursery that parents must adhere to, in order to secure their child's place.

We have also listed additional information to support parents when considering their application to receive a funded place.

### Refreshment provision

The nursery has an on-site qualified chef who prepares freshly cooked meals daily on our nursery premises. An additional cost is charged for your child's refreshment provision.

Mealtimes at our nursery are an important time to socialise and experience new foods from around the world, however we understand this is a further cost and therefore there is the option for you to provide your child with a packed lunch and snacks instead if you would prefer not to pay for the refreshment charge.

For more information, please contact Rebecca Warner.

# Funding Scheme 1: 2-Year-Old Early Education & Childcare

## Introduction

A 2-year-old can receive free early education and childcare if you live in England and get one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit
- Tax credits and you have an annual income of under £16,190 before tax
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Support through part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act
- The Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

A child can also get free early education and childcare if any of the following apply:

- They are looked after by a local council
- They have a current statement of special education needs (SEN) or an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- They get disability living allowance
- They have left care under a special guardianship order; child arrangements order or adoption order.

If you are eligible the free early education and childcare:

- It must be with an approved Ofsted registered childcare provider such as Little Troopers Day Nursery.
- The free hours are available from the term after your child's 2nd birthday.

## How to apply

You can check your eligibility for the funding by using the [Oxfordshire County Council Citizen Portal](#) (*please refer to the Oxfordshire council website for access to the link*).

To check your eligibility under the economic criteria you will need your national insurance number. The citizen portal will provide an immediate outcome for those families applying under these criteria.

To check if you are eligible under the non-economic criteria you will need to supply evidence that supports your application. We may request further evidence to verify your eligibility.

If you are entitled to the funding, you will receive a Two-Year-Old Funding Voucher which you must then show to Little Troopers Day Nursery, when arranging your child's early education place. Once our nursery has seen evidence of eligibility, we will need to call the funding team at Oxfordshire County Council to confirm your child's place at their provision and will need to quote the reference number contained within your voucher.

The nursery will also require you to sign a parental agreement every term and will need to see proof of the child's age (child's birth certificate) and your address.

## Who can help me to apply?

If you need help in completing the online application please talk to your health visitor, the Family Information Service or the nursery, who can check your eligibility for you.

## What will my child be entitled to?

Your child will be entitled to 15 hours per week for 38 weeks a year (school term time) of free early education and childcare. These are currently offered into three morning and afternoon sessions and based on the nursery's current availability.

There is an option to stretch the 15 hours from 38 weeks to 51 weeks a year, this is the number of weeks the nursery is open. Where possible this is the nursery's preferred option as give consistency for any child attending our nursery, with no interruptions to their nursery routine. However, this is not a requirement and parents may choose to access the hours on a term time only basis if they wish.

Please note there are limited places on this scheme and therefore places are subject to availability.

## When can my child start?

Eligible children are able to start the term after their second birthday. The Two-year-old funding voucher will tell you the earliest date that your child can start their free place (subject to availability at the nursery). We are unable to backdate funding prior to the date on the funding voucher.

## How many hours may my child have in one day?

Your child can receive funded hours of between 2.5 hours and limited to 6 hours per day, however our nursery sessions require a child to attend at least a morning or afternoon session (4 hours). This may be extended to a full day (9 hours) with the parent paying the remaining 3 hours if they wish to extend to a full day.

## Does my child need to take all the hours to start with?

No, you can begin by taking a few hours each week and build up the number of hours, to no more than 15 a week, if the childcare provider is able to accommodate. However, you will need to stick to the same number of hours each week over one term.

## Will there be any additional costs?

There are no hidden costs. You will not be charged an enrolment fee, deposit or additional fees. However, if you choose to extend your child's attendance hours then the 15 hours will be deducted from your child's weekly sessions, and you will be required to pay the remaining charges; this includes additional hours beyond the 5 hours and refreshment provision.

The nursery will discuss with you the options available to you at the time of your child's enrolment, so you can make a decision that meets your needs most suitably.

## Can my child have a place all year round?

Where possible we would advise that the 15 weekly hours are 'stretched' over the 51 weeks a year that our nursery is open to offer consistency for both the child and their parent/s. This means that a child will still access all of their eligible 15 hours, but this will be over 51 weeks rather than the school terms, which equate to 38 weeks.

## How long does a funded Two-year-old place last?

Until your child reaches the term after their third birthday when they become eligible for Universal free nursery education for 3 and 4 year olds.

## What if my finances change?

Once eligibility has been confirmed, your child will remain eligible for the funding until the term after they turn three, regardless of when they take up the funded place.

## Do I need to print the Two-Year-Old Funding voucher?

The nursery will need to take down your reference number as this is what we will use to confirm the funding with Oxfordshire County Council. If it's easy for you to do so, you can print the voucher and hand it in to us. Or, you can access the citizen portal on your mobile phone, so you can show the nursery the confirmation message that is sent to your citizen portal account or you can simply write down the reference number and give it to the childcare provider.

## What happens if my child does not attend their funded sessions regularly?

Your child's attendance will be monitored by our nursery. You will be required to sign the nursery's funded place terms and conditions as well as adhering to all of our nursery policies, including our policy on attendance which required you to notify us within one hour of the start time of the session your child's absence and the reason for their absence. The nursery understands that from time to time it may not be possible for your child to attend nursery; however, if the attendance is irregular without any reason, you will be supported in the first instance, but if the parent is still not making effective use of the childcare place your child's place may be terminated and offered to another child.

## Can I split the funding between two settings?

It is generally better for a child if they attend just one setting only, particularly for very young children. However, where this is not possible then you may split the funding between our nursery and another provider. You are required to notify both providers in advance of this request as both providers will need to form a plan to ensure they both communicate the child's development within their setting, as well as informing the hours each setting will be claiming.

## Further help and guidance

As well as support provided through a funded place for your 2-year-old, you may be interested in other support on offer for you and your family. Your local children's centre may contact you to support you in applying for the funding. Following your application, they may contact you to let you know about other services and explain how they may be of benefit for your child or family. The Family Information Service can also let you know about other services which may be of benefit e.g., health services.

## Free Early Education Entitlement for 3 & 4 year olds

### Introduction

The Government Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) allows children aged 3 & 4 years to receive between 15 hours and 30 hours per week of free early education within a registered nursery setting. The funding is available from the term after their third birthday until the term before their fifth birthday.

All children aged 3 & 4 years are entitled to receive 15 hours per week (570 hours per year) of free early education known as the 'Universal hours' and some parents may be able to access 30 hours per week of free early education known as 'Extended hours' if they meet the Government selective income-based criteria.

## Funding Scheme 2: Universal Hours (15 hours)

### How to apply

All children aged 3 & 4 years are eligible for this funding scheme and the nursery oversees the enrolment of all children onto the scheme on behalf of the Oxfordshire County Council and the Government.

The nursery will automatically enrol existing nursery children onto the scheme for the school term following their third birthday. If you wish to request a place you should contact the nursery directly to check their availability.

Parents of children who are new to the funding scheme are required to produce proof of their child's age and eligibility. Parents are therefore required to produce their child's birth certificate or passport as proof and complete and sign a declaration form. All existing children on the scheme are required to complete and sign a declaration form on a termly basis, confirming their child's attendance at our nursery.

### When will my child qualify?

The nursery has three terms when children are eligible to be enrolled onto the funding scheme, the term your child joins will depend on their date of birth:

Turning three between	Eligible for 'Universal Hours' from the following	Term name and number
1 <sup>st</sup> April – 31 <sup>st</sup> August	1 <sup>st</sup> September	Autumn (Term 1)
1 <sup>st</sup> September – 31 <sup>st</sup> December	1 <sup>st</sup> January	Spring (Term 2)
1 <sup>st</sup> January – 31 <sup>st</sup> March	1 <sup>st</sup> April	Summer (Term 3)

### What will my child be entitled to?

Your child will be entitled to 570 hours per year of Universal Hours. These hours can be accessed as a combination of morning, afternoon, and all-day sessions. *Please note for 2023-2024 we are not offering half day sessions.*

The nursery currently offers the Universal hours in a number of ways:

- 15 hours a week as three morning and afternoon sessions for 38 weeks a year on a term time only basis.\*
- 15 hours a week 'stretched' across 51 weeks of the year instead of 38 weeks, receiving less hours per week but over the 51 weeks a year that the nursery is open.
- 15 hours a week in conjunction with additional hours to make up full day sessions, with additional hours being paid for by the parent. This is offered on a 51 week a year basis.

Where possible we like to stretch these hours over the 51 weeks a year that the nursery is open, this is because we feel that consistency for children is key to support their education development.

*\*The term only 38-week funded places do not come with a guarantee of an ongoing place. These places are limited and will be confirmed on a termly basis, one week before the end of the previous term and are subject to change, therefore parents should only apply for a place if they are prepared to be flexible about the sessions their child receives on a termly basis.*

### How many hours may my child have in one day?

Your child can receive funded hours of between 4 hours and limited to 6 hours per day, however our nursery sessions require a child to attend at least a morning or afternoon session (4 hours). However, this may be extended to a full day (9 hours) with the parent paying the remaining fees.

*\*Please note for 2023-2024 we are not offering half day sessions; we will only be offering full day sessions and the claim will be limited to 6 hours per day.*

## Does my child need to take all the hours to start with?

No, you can begin by taking a few sessions each week and build up the number of sessions (hours), to no more than 15 a week, if the nursery is able to accommodate your request. However, you will need to stick to the same number of hours each week over one term.

## Will there be any additional costs?

There are no hidden costs, for those children attending all day the nursery has created a day rate to enable the cost of additional fees (over 51 weeks) to be divided into 12 equal monthly instalments. The day rate takes into account your child's funded hours. These fees are listed in a separate document to this policy and available to those parents whose child is entitled to apply for a funded place.

The nursery will discuss with you the options available to you at the time of your child's enrolment, so you can make a decision that meets your needs most suitably.

The nursery will inform you of your child's monthly anticipated fees prior to your child's enrolment onto the funding scheme.

## What if I need my child to attend an additional occasional session?

In the event you require an additional session for your child which does not form part of their contracted funded sessions you will still be able to book these sessions provided the nursery is able to accommodate your session request. These sessions are chargeable at the nursery's full fee rate, the nursery is unable to use any additional 'Universal Hours' not used.

## Can my child have a place all year round?

Where possible we would advise that the 15 weekly hours are 'stretched' over the 51 weeks a year that our nursery is open to offer consistency for both the child and their parent/s. This means that a child will still access all of their eligible 15 hours, but this will be over 51 weeks rather than the school terms, which equate to 38 weeks.

The term only 38-week funded places do not come with a guarantee of an ongoing place. These places are limited and will be confirmed on a termly basis, one week before the end of the previous term and are subject to change, therefore parents should only apply for a place if they are prepared to be flexible about the sessions their child receives on a termly basis.

## How long does a Universal hours funded place last?

If you choose to receive a 51 week a year place, your sessions will be guaranteed (unless you request to change them) until your child reaches the term before their fifth birthday when they are required to attend school.

## What if I wish to make changes to my child's sessions?

In the event you wish to extend, reduce or terminate your child's sessions under the 'Universal Hours' scheme the nursery requires parents to give a term's notice in writing (email is suitable). Requested changes to extend or reduce your child's sessions will start on the first day of the new funded term.

In the event a parent terminates a place, the last day will be the final session of the final week of the term (see table below). Parents who fail to give suitable written notice will be required to continue with their existing place.

Parent gives written notice in	Place will be terminated	Changes to the place (extend/ reduce) effective
July, August, September, or October	End of the Autumn Term (December)	Beginning of the Spring Term (January)
November, December, January or February	End of the Spring Term (March)	Beginning of the Summer Term (April)
March, April, May, or June	End of the Summer Term (August)	Beginning of the Autumn Term (September)

If you are looking to increase or swap your child's session days the nursery will do the upmost to accommodate your request as soon as possible, however this is subject to availability and may not be possible within the time frame you have requested.

If your financial circumstances change and you wish to reduce your child's sessions, you must contact the nursery as soon as possible. The nursery will look to consider the following:

- Offer to reduce your child's sessions
- Move your child to a term time only or stretched 51-week place
- Require you to terminate your place

In all cases the change will not be accommodated until the requested half term notice period has been fulfilled.

## What happens if my child does not attend their funded sessions regularly?

Your child's attendance will be monitored by our nursery. You will be required to sign the nursery's funded place terms and conditions as well as adhering to all of our nursery policies, including our policy on attendance which requires you to notify us within one hour of the start time of the session of your child's absence and the reason for their absence. The nursery understands that from time to time it may not be possible for your child to attend nursery; however, if the attendance is irregular without any reason, you will be supported in the first instance, but if the child is still not making effective use of the childcare place your child's place may be terminated and offered to another child.

## Can I split the funding between two settings?

It is generally better for a child if they attend just one setting only, particularly for very young children. However, where this is not possible then you may split the funding between our nursery and another provider. You are required to notify both providers and gain their agreement in advance and ensure that both providers are fully aware of how many hours per week they may claim for your child's funding. Both providers will also need to form a plan to ensure they communicate with each other regarding your child's development within their setting.

## Are the nursery's 10% sibling and 10% holiday discounts honoured while my child receives their 'Universal Hours'?

The nursery continues to honour both the sibling discount which is available to the oldest child while they remain at nursery and the holiday discount. To receive the 10% holiday discount parents must notify the nursery one month in advance in writing (email is suitable) of their child's planned absence.

## Further help and guidance

If you require further information regarding 'Universal Hours', please contact Rebecca Warner.

## Funding Scheme 3: Extended Hours (30 hours)

From September 2017, the Government extended its offer of Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) from 15 hours per week to 30 hours per week (1140-hour offer) provided parents meet the requested criteria. This is known as the 'Extended Hours'.

### Meeting the Criteria

The Government has set out the following criteria parents of children aged 3 & 4 years old will need to meet in order to be eligible for the Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) 'Extended Hours':

#### To qualify:

- Parents must earn or expect to earn the equivalent to 16 hours at National Minimum or Living Wage over the coming three months.
- This applies whether you are in paid employment, self-employed or on zero hour's contract.
- The parent (and their partner where applicable) should be seeking the Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) 'Extended Hours' to enable them to work.
- Where one or both parents are on maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave, or if they are on statutory sick leave.
- Where one parent meets the income criteria and the other is unable to work because they are disabled, have caring responsibilities or have been assessed as having limited capability to work.
- Where a parent is in a 'start-up period' (i.e., they are newly self-employed) they do not need to demonstrate that they meet the income criteria for 12 months.
- If one or both parents is a non-EEA national, the parent applying must have recourse to public funds.

#### A parent will **not** meet the criteria when:

- Either parent has an income of more than £100,000
- If one or both parents is a non-EEA national and the parent applying does not have recourse to public funds

## How to apply

To receive the 'Extended Hours' parents will require an eligibility code which will need to be given to the nursery to enable them to process your claim.

Parents can check whether they are eligible for the 'Extended Hours' (30 hours) and a range of government childcare offers via the Childcare Choices at <http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk> or the Childcare Calculator <https://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator>.

Those parents who are eligible will be directed to the digital childcare services to apply.

## Application Process

Parents will be requested to create a childcare service account; this is to allow secure messages regarding a parent's eligibility to be received.

Parents will be asked to enter a number of personal details and that of their partner (if they have one) including:

- Name, address, and National Insurance number
- Whether they expect to meet the income requirements over the next three months
- Whether they received any other benefits.

The information will help HMRC decide whether the parent (and their child) are eligible for the 'Extended Hours'. If a parent is entitled to the 'Extended Hours', they will find their eligibility code in the '30 hours free childcare' section of their account.

## Important notes about applying

- Parents will **not** need to apply for the 'Universal Hours' (15 hours), all children aged 3 & 4 years are entitled to receive 15 hours per week (570 hours per year) of free early education and the nursery will automatically enrol a child the term after their third birthday.
- Parents can **not** apply for the 'Extended Hours' (30 hours) via Little Troopers Day Nursery, parents **must** apply via the government websites listed above.
- To receive the 'Extended Hours' at Little Troopers Day Nursery parents **must** send an email to Rebecca Warner at [info@littletroopers.o.uk](mailto:info@littletroopers.o.uk) with the following information:
  - Full claiming name of the parent
  - Parent eligibility code
  - National Insurance number of the parent claiming
  - Confirm their child's date of birth
  - Permission from the parent to verify their eligibility code

The nursery will then use the Department for Education's Eligibility Checking System to validate the parent's code. If a parent is not able to produce this information before this time a provider will be unable to enrol their child into the scheme and they will not receive the funding until following term. Parents will also be required to reapply for the funding for the following term.

- Parents are requested by HMRC to re-confirm their eligibility when prompted. This is likely to be every term.
- Parents are required to sign a terms and conditions funding contract with the nursery.
- Parents are required to complete and sign a declaration form on a termly basis, confirming their child's attendance at our nursery.

## When will my child qualify?

The nursery has three terms when your child will be eligible to be enrolled onto the 'Extended hours' scheme, the term your child joins will depend on their date of birth and therefore when they become eligible:

Turning three between	Eligible for 'Extended Hours' from the following	Term name and number	Closing date to be enrolled onto the scheme
1 <sup>st</sup> April – 31 <sup>st</sup> August	1 <sup>st</sup> September	Autumn (Term 1)	<b>1<sup>st</sup> week of July</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Sept – 31 <sup>st</sup> December	1 <sup>st</sup> January	Spring (Term 2)	<b>1<sup>st</sup> week of December</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> January – 31 <sup>st</sup> March	1 <sup>st</sup> April	Summer (Term 3)	<b>1<sup>st</sup> week of March</b>

## What will my child be entitled to?

The Government has given all nursery and school settings the option as to whether they wish to offer the 'Extended Hours' and the opportunity to choose how it will be implemented within their setting.

At Little Troopers Day Nursery, we feel it is important that the policy we put in place:

- Is fair and inclusive of all children and their parents.
- Ensures that the quality of our care is not compromised.
- As a nursery provision, we can adhere to the policy while remaining sustainable.

With this in mind, the nursery will be implementing the Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) 'Extended Hours' as follows:

- All parents eligible for the funding will be able to access the 'Extended Hours' at our nursery.
- Children will be required to attend a minimum of two full days a week.
- The hours will be limited 6 hours per day, but 'stretched' and therefore accessible for 51 weeks a year the total number of weeks the nursery is open, rather than 38 weeks.
- There will be a limited number of 'Fixed' places available where a child can attend fixed sessions offered by the nursery and receive their 'Extended Hours' for 51 weeks a year with no additional charge. \*

\* This year's fixed place from 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024 will consist of the following set sessions:

Monday and Friday 8.30am – 5.20pm over 51 weeks.

To apply for this place parents are required to have already received their eligibility code and must apply in writing (email is acceptable).

Please note the condition of this place means that parents may not add additional sessions to this place to top up the weekly sessions.

The place is offered on a first come first served basis and the successful parent will be informed by 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023 if they have been successful in gaining the place.

Please note the fixed place sessions are subject to change on an annual basis.

## How many hours may my child have in one day?

Your child can receive up to 6 funded hours per day, however unless your child is attending the 'fixed place' all children attending for the 'Extended Hours' are required to attend full day sessions and half day sessions will not be offered. Parents of children currently attending for half day sessions will be offered the opportunity to increase their child's session to a full day.

This means that 6 of the 9 hours of a full day will be covered by the 'Extended Hours', with the remaining hours and refreshment provision being paid for by the parent. For those children attending all day the nursery has created a day rate to enable the cost of additional fees (over 51 weeks) to be divided into 12 equal monthly instalments.

## Does my child need to take all the funded hours/sessions to start with?

You will need to confirm with the nursery when joining the scheme, the sessions you would like your child to attend, the nursery will then check and confirm their availability. Your child will be required to attend these sessions for the whole of the term. In the event you wish to extend, decrease or terminate your child's sessions with the nursery you will be required to give a terms notice.

## What if I wish to make changes to my child's sessions?

In the event you wish to extend, reduce, or terminate your child's sessions under the 'Extended Hours' scheme the nursery requires parents to give a term's notice in writing (email is suitable). Requested changes to extend or reduce your child's sessions will start on the first day of the new funded term.

In the event a parent terminates a place, the last day will be the final session of the final week of the term (see table below). Parents who fail to give suitable written notice will be required to continue with their existing place.

Parent gives written notice in	Place will be terminated	Changes to the place (extend/ reduce) effective
July, August, September, or October	End of the Autumn Term (December)	Beginning of the Spring Term (January)
November, December, January or February	End of the Spring Term (March)	Beginning of the Summer Term (April)
March, April, May, or June	End of the Summer Term (August)	Beginning of the Autumn Term (September)



## What if my financial situation changes and I am no longer eligible for the 'Extended Hours'?

If your financial circumstances change and you no longer become eligible for the 'Extended Hours', the government scheme allows a grace period. The grace period allows parents to retain their childcare place for a short period time. This is normally up to four weeks after the validity date, this is the date parent is requested to reconfirm to HMRC their eligibility to the 'Extended Hours' for the following term.

In any event where you suspect your financial situation will change and you need to reduce your child's sessions you must contact the nursery as soon as possible. In the interest of your child and to ensure consistency in their nursery attendance the nursery will discuss with you the options available. In most cases we will reduce your child's sessions to the 'Universal Hours'. In the event your child's attendance is reduced to 'Universal Hours' the nursery will look to offer you sessions closest to some of your child's existing sessions, however at times this may not be possible, and the nursery will have the final decision as to which sessions will be offered to your child as the 'Universal Hours'.

However, it is possible we may require you to terminate your place, this is seen as a last resort where all alternatives have been considered.

In all cases the change will not be accommodated until the requested term notice period has been fulfilled.

## Will there be any additional costs?

There are no hidden costs if you choose for your child to attend an all-day session. The nursery has created a day rate to enable the cost of additional fees (over 51 weeks) to be divided into 12 equal monthly instalments. If you wish to apply for the Fixed Place, there will be no additional costs to pay. These fees are listed in separate document to this policy and available to those parents who wish to apply for a funded place.

The nursery will inform you of your child's monthly fees once your eligibility code has been verified and your child has been successfully enrolled onto the funding scheme.

## What if I need my child to attend an additional occasional session?

In the event you require an additional session for your child which does not form part of their contracted funded sessions you will still be able to book these sessions provided the nursery is able to accommodate your session request. These sessions are chargeable at the nursery's full fee rate, the nursery is unable to use any additional 'Extended Hours' not used.

## Can my child have a place all year round?

'Extended Hour's places are offer on a 51-week basis only. The 30 hours a week are 'stretched' over the 51 weeks a year that our nursery is open to offer consistency for both the child and their parent/s.

## How long does an 'Extended Hours' funded old place last?

Please refer to 'What if my financial situation changes and I am no longer eligible for the 'Extended Hours'?'

## What happens if my child does not attend their funded sessions regularly?

Your child's attendance will be monitored by our nursery. You will be required to sign the funding contract terms and conditions with the nursery as well as adhering to all of our nursery policies, including our policy on attendance which requires you to notify us within one hour of the start time of the session of your child's absence and the reason for their absence. The nursery understands that from time to time it may not be possible for your child to attend nursery; however, if the attendance is irregular without any reason, you will be supported in the first instance, but if the child is still not making good use of the childcare place your child's place may be terminated and offered to another child.

## Can I split the funding between two settings?

Yes, the 'Extended Hours' gives parents the opportunity to split the funding between different providers as long as they are registered with a governing body such as Ofsted. However, you are required in the first instance to notify both providers and gain their agreement in advance and ensure that both providers are fully aware of how many hours per week they may claim for your child's funding. Both providers will also need to form a plan to ensure they communicate with each other regarding your child's development within their setting. Please note the 'Extended Hours' are limited to two providers in one single day.

## Are the nursery's 10% sibling and 10% holiday discounts honoured while my child receives their 'Extended Hours'?

The nursery continues to honour both the sibling discount which is available to the oldest child while they remain at nursery and the holiday discount. To receive the 10% holiday discount parents must notify the nursery one month in advance in writing (email is suitable) of their child's planned absence. Please note that the discounts are not available to those children who have gained a 'Fixed Place'; no discount is offered for a child attending on this basis.

## Further help and guidance

If you require further information regarding 'Extended Hours', please contact the nursery.


## Tax Free Childcare

Parents are also able to apply for Tax Free Childcare through the digital childcare service. Working parents of children aged 12 years and under can use the Tax-Free Childcare. For every £8 a parent pays into their childcare account, the government will pay in an extra £2. Parents can get up to £2000 government support per child per year towards their childcare costs - that's up to £500 every 3 months. If they have a disabled child, they can receive up to £4000 per child – a total of £1000 every 3 months. They can then use this money to pay their childcare provider.

Little Troopers Day Nursery has signed up to Tax-Free Childcare and although parents cannot use both the Tax-Free Childcare and childcare voucher schemes, we can as a provider receive payments from both.

Further details are available at:

<http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk> or <https://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk/>

Produced by:	Signed:  Print: Rebecca Warner	Date: July 2023
To be reviewed:	July 2024	
Nursery Designated Safeguarding Officers		Position
(Lead) Rebecca Warner		Company Director
(Deputy) Nicola Robertson		Nursery Manager
(Deputy) Beverly Massingham		Deputy Manager