

Government Funding

The government offers funded childcare places to support families with the cost of early education. These funded hours are designed to give children access to early education and make childcare more affordable for parents. The funding is provided directly to childcare settings and is not a cash payment for families.

24U 15 hours (For Eligible 2 Year Olds)

Shropshire's 24U funding provides 15 hours of funded childcare per week for eligible 2-year-olds, starting the term after their 2nd birthday. Children may qualify for 24U funding if their family meets the below eligibility criteria

- Are from low-income households
- Have parents/carers receiving certain benefits
- Are looked after, previously looked after or under special guardianship, adoption or residence order
- Have a Special Educational Need or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- Receive Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

Shropshire council determines eligibility, and parents can check and apply directly through the local's authority's website.

Universal 15 hours (For All 3-4 Year Olds)

All children are entitled to 15 hours of funded childcare per week, starting the term after their 3rd birthday. This is known as the universal entitlement and is available to every family, regardless of income.

Extended 30 hours (For Eligible Working Families)

This funding is available to working parents the term after their child turns 9 months old who meets the below governments eligibility criteria:

- Working at least 16 hours a week
- Employed or Self-employed
- Must earn less than £100,000 a year

Parents must apply for the extended hours through the governments Best Start in Life website and renew their code every 3 months to ensure their circumstances have not changed.

[Best Start in Life - Best Start in Life](#)

How funding works in our setting

At our setting, we offer funded hours on a stretched basis only. This means that instead of receiving 15 or 30 hours per week for weeks of the year (term time), families have their funding spread evenly across the full 51 weeks we are open. This stretched approach provides consistency for children and greater flexibility for families who require year-round childcare.

What this means in practice:

- 15 hours per week term time becomes approximately 11 funded hours per week all year round

- 30 hours per week term time becomes approximately 22 funded hours per week all year round.

Government funding covers the cost of early education provision only. It does not include meals, consumables or enhanced experiences. At our setting, these additional elements are included within our 'Little Orges Bundle', which ensures children receive freshly prepared meals, essential consumables and access to our enriched curriculum such as outdoor learning, cooking and gardening sessions.

We can offer your child more than their funded hours per week, if you need them. These additional hours are paid for and referred to as non-funded hours. The cost of these are outlined in our Nursery Fees section of our website.

We're Here to Help

We understand that government funding can feel confusing and that's why our team are always available to explain how your child's funded hours apply, how they are allocated across your sessions and what your weekly fees would look like.

Additional Help

EYPP Funding

EYPP (Early Years Pupil Premium) is extra funding for early years education providers to support disadvantaged children aged 9 months to 4 years old. This funding can be up to £570 per child per year and is used to improve the quality of education. To claim it, parents or guardians must be receiving certain benefits like Universal Credit or Child Tax Credit, and the child must be taking up their free hour's entitlement. A portion of this funding can be used towards food costs.

DAF Funding

Disability Access Funding (DAF) is available to support children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities who are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA). Children become eligible for DAF once they start receiving government funded early education, which can begin from 9 months of age depending on eligibility. Please note, DAF is not automatically available to all children with SEND – eligibility is specifically linked to receiving DLA.

Tax-Free Childcare

A scheme introduced by the government to help working parents with the cost of childcare. For every £8 you pay into an online account, the government will add an extra £2, up to £2,000 per child per year – that's up to £500 every three months. You may be eligible for Tax-Free Childcare if you and your partner are:

- In work and each earning at least the National Minimum Wage or Living Wage for 16 hours a week
- Earning under £100,000 each a year
- Anyone claiming Universal Credits are exempt from claiming this.

Introducing the Little Ogres Bundle

Government funding covers core care hours but excludes meals, certain consumables and enhanced activity provisions. Our little Ogres Bundle has been carefully designed to provide families with a package that ensure a best quality experience for children, and peace of mind and convenience for parents.

A key feature of our Little Ogres Bundle is the provision of fresh, nutritious meals prepared by our onsite cook. We pride ourselves in our state of the art, fully equipped commercial kitchen and our consistent 5-star rating from Environmental Health. Our menus are planned in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage nutrition guidance, ensuring that's meals support healthy growth and development, introducing children to a balanced range of foods while encouraging positive eating habits. This approach ensures that children's dietary needs are met effectively and that they remain well-nourished and ready to learn. Mealtimes are a key learning moment, supporting children to develop confidence in exploring new tastes, handling food, and using cutlery – all essentials' skills for school readiness.

To make life easier for parents and to ensure children are always comfortable, the bundle also covers a wide range of everyday consumables. This includes sun cream to protect them during outdoor play, Calpol when needed (and always with prior parental consent), as well as nappy sacks, flannels, toothbrushes and other essential items. With these taken care of, you can relax knowing your child is supported in every aspect of their care.

In addition, the Little Orges Bundle provides access to a variety of enhanced learning experiences that form an integral part of our curriculum. Children participate in outdoor learning sessions in our very own 'Shrek's Swamp' which include an outdoor classroom for arts and crafts, mud kitchen and construction area where they can learn through nature, build confidence and develop problem solving skills in an inspiring outdoor environment. They'll also have opportunities to join our cooking club, discovering new foods and simple recipes, as well as getting involved in gardening activities – planting, nurturing and harvesting their own produce while learning about the natural world!

Please note that our Little Orges Bundle offers food and consumables in funded sessions. Any privately paid sessions automatically include food and consumables.

Thinking of opting out?

These are optional services, and should you wish to opt out of this bundle you can discuss this with the Nursery management team. They will be able to explain to process and discuss alternatives available to you.

Nursery Fees

Should you wish to book in additional hours that are not covered by funding or you are not eligible for funding our Nursery fees are outlined below:

51 Week Nursery Place	Per Hour
Daily Rate 7.30am – 6.00pm	£6.99
Daily Rate 7.30am – 4.30pm	£6.99
Daily Rate 9.00am – 6:00pm	£6.99
Short Day 9.00am – 4.30pm	£8.00

Should you wish to add our Little Ogres Bundle to your funded sessions, the charges outlined below:

9 month & 2-year-old Funding	Meals Provided	Additional Charge
Full Day 7.30am-6:00pm	Breakfast, Snack, Lunch, Snack, Tea	£8.00
	Consumables	£2.00
	Enhanced Learning Provisions	£1.00
Short Day 9.00am – 4.30pm	Snack, Lunch, Snack	£6.90
	Consumables	£2.00
	Enhanced Learning Provisions	£1.00

3–4-year-old Funding	Meals Provided	Additional Charge
Full Day 7.30am-6:00pm	Breakfast, Snack, Lunch, Snack, Tea	£9.50
	Consumables	£2.50
	Enhanced Learning Provisions	£3.00
Short Day 9.00am – 4.30pm	Snack, Lunch, Snack	£7.50
	Consumables	£2.50
	Enhanced Learning Provisions	£3.00

The funded hours claimed will be shown on your monthly invoice as free hours. Tern Valley Day Nursery will only charge for additional hours over the government funding and for our Little Ogres Bundle. Your bill will be annualised, so you'll receive the same bill each month. All invoices will be received via email before their payment due date of the 1st of each month.

FAQ's

Does Tern Valley offer totally free places?

Yes, although we prefer to call these 'funded' not 'free' our nursery offers funded places where parents can access their funded hours with no additional cost. Many families, however, still choose our all-inclusive 'Little Ogres Bundle' which offers excellent value and convenience. It includes freshly prepared nutritious meals, snacks and drinks, as well as essential items such as nappy sacks, sun cream and Calpol. To access places at no additional cost parents, need to discuss the alternatives available with the Nursery Management team and opt out of our Little Ogres Bundle.

If I pay for extra hours and don't use them, can I be refunded?

Unfortunately, not. We must ensure we cover all our running and team costs to provide high quality care for every child at Tern Valley Day Nursery.

I've missed the deadline to apply for my Eligibility Code. Can my child still be funded?

Codes only provide funding in the term after you apply, so if you miss the deadline, we will not be able to access the funded hours until the next term. If your child is 3 or above then you're still eligible for 15 hours, because its available to all children, regardless of whether parents are working. HMRC will prompt you to reconfirm your code when needed to stay eligible. Ultimately, it is the parents' responsibility to ensure they have a valid working families code in place before each term starts.

Can you claim funding at different settings?

Yes, you can split your funding across a maximum of two settings. However, it is imperative that you let each provider know that you are doing this so we can ensure that we are claiming the correct amount of funding.

Can I provide a packed lunch for my child?

If you opt out of our Little Ogres Bundle all meals including breakfast and snacks must be provided by the parents. Parents will be required to bring a packed lunch to the setting at the designated lunch time (11:30am) to ensure safe storage and handling of food. All packed lunches must comply with recognised healthy eating and nutrition guidelines. In order to promote children's well-being and maintain a safe environment for all.

Sweets, chocolate, high sugar foods, nuts and nut-containing products are not permitted under any circumstances. This restriction supports our commitment to healthy eating practices and safeguards children with allergies.

Please follow the link below:

[Early Years Foundation Stage nutrition - GOV.UK](#)

Do you offer term time only spaces?

At our setting, we offer funded hours on a stretched basis only. This means that instead of receiving 15 or 30 hours per week for weeks of the year (term time), families have their funding spread evenly across the full 51 weeks we are open. We only close on weekends, bank holidays and for a week over Christmas.