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Early Years Funding (“EYF”) at ACE Day Nursery

From September 2025 until further notice

One year old children

Some one year old children are eligible for the working families expanded entitlement to up to 30 hours of EYF over 38 weeks of the year. An eligibility code is required and the Department for Education has set deadline dates for applications to [Childcare Choices](#). A code must be issued by Childcare Choices before the start of the funding period the parent wishes to use the entitlement. Please let ACE have that code as soon as you have it, together with your National Insurance number.

Since ACE Day Nursery is open for more than 38 weeks of the year, funding claims are stretched across the period we are open (meaning that funding is less than 30 hours per week). Additional hours over and above the funded hours are charged at £11.00 per hour for children attending 2-3 days per week or £10.00 per hour for children attending 4-5 days per week.

Since the rate at which we are funded for one year children is (at the time of writing) £11.00 per hour, which is more than our current fee rates for one year old children attending 4-5 days per week (£10.00 per hour), we effectively refund £1.00 per funded hour for one year old children attending 4-5 days per week, by deducting this amount from the balance of fees payable for additional hours attended.

Two year old children

Some two year old children are eligible for the working families expanded entitlement to up to 30 hours of EYF over 38 weeks of the year. An eligibility code is required and the Department for Education has set deadline dates for applications to [Childcare Choices](#). A code must be issued by Childcare Choices before the start of the funding period the parent wishes to use the entitlement. Please let ACE have that code as soon as you have it, together with your National Insurance number.

Since ACE Day Nursery is open for more than 38 weeks of the year, funding claims are stretched across the period we are open (meaning that funding is less than 30 hours per week).

It’s important to note that government funding is not intended to cover the full cost of childcare. So there are charges of up to £14.00 per day for two year old children attending ACE for items like snacks, lunch, tea as well as enrichment activities like yoga and sessions in languages other than English, and non-food consumables e.g. sun cream. If you are considering opting out of these elements, please first discuss your decision with the Day Nursery Manager. Please note that we require seven weeks’ notice (excluding closure periods) to process any such request. If parents choose to provide their own items before the notice period expires, the relevant charges will still apply. We cannot allow packed lunches and only home-prepared hot meals will be permitted that comply with our policy on allergens (they must be nut-free and from time-to-time other specific ingredients must be avoided depending on the allergies of children attending the nursery at that point). Opting out could lead to a child being excluded from meal times, certain activities and communications as well as social events.

Please see our separate fee policy for detailed information on how fees are calculated. EYF cannot be used to pay for extra days at ACE Day Nursery.

Claiming EYF

At the start of the term in which your child becomes eligible to receive funding, you will be asked to complete a Cambridgeshire County Council Parent/Carer Declaration Form in order to claim your child's funding. If this is the first time you are claiming at ACE, we need to see proof of date of birth e.g. your child's birth certificate or passport. This will enable us to claim the funding on your behalf. The money is then paid directly to ACE Day Nursery. ACE will invoice you at the start of the school year.

At the start of each term, parents should commit to a pattern of funded hours for the whole term. Increases in hours of attendance may not be funded part way through the term. Fees will be charged for any additional hours taken. There is no requirement to transfer the funding between childcare providers once the funding declaration form has been agreed. If you know that you will be moving providers mid-term, this should be reflected in the funding declaration forms with each provider. Extra days booked will need to be paid for on or before the day as normal.

Parents are responsible for re-confirming their eligibility codes with the government on a regular basis to keep them valid.

Birth dates applicable to EYF

Parents are able to claim funding for eligible children from the claim period after they turn 12 months of age (note we don't take children until they are 12 months of age at ACE Day Nursery) until the claim period they turn five years old*, inclusive of that period.

Children 12 months + born in the period	Become eligible from the claim period
1 April to 31 August	Autumn Term
1 September to 31 December	Spring Term
1 January to 31 March	Summer Term

*if they do not take up a state funded place in reception class