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

From September 2025 until further notice

Three and four year old children

Most children start reception classes at primary school full-time in September after their fourth birthday. Before that time, the local authority offers funding to help with the cost of early years education. At present, all three and four year old children are entitled to up to fifteen hours of universal early years funding per week for 38 weeks of the year from the term after their third birthday (specific dates apply – see below or please check with the Nursery School).

An additional fifteen hours of funding per week during term-time may be available to some three and four year old children of working parents, if certain criteria are met. An eligibility code is required to access this funding and the Department for Education has set deadline dates for applications – please see [Childcare Choices](#) for further information. 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.

It's important to note that government funding is not intended to cover the full cost of childcare. So there are charges for snacks - including organic vegetables and fruit - of £4 per snack, as well as additional enrichment activities like yoga/mindfulness (£5 per class) and sessions in languages other than English (£4 each), and non-food consumables e.g. sun cream. In the event of a family considering opting out of additional charges, please first discuss your decision with the Headteacher. Please note that we require half a term's notice (excluding closure periods) to process any such request. Opting out could lead to your child being excluded from certain activities and communications as well as social events, afterschool clubs and holiday playschemes.

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](#) for entitlement. 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.

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

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 Nursery School and will cover/reduce your child's fees depending on the number of days attended. ACE will invoice you at the start of each term showing you how many hours of funding you are entitled to claim and the fees payable for your child for that term.

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) 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