



Nursery Education Funding – Parent Information Sheet April 2025-26

Overview

Nursery Education Funding (NEF) is a subsidy paid to childcare providers to cover basic costs for quality childcare. It is not intended to cover food, non-food consumables, or activities/outings.

The subsidy amount varies according to a child's age and is based upon **nursery** ratios (under 2s: 1 adult to 3 children, 2 years: 1 adult to 4 children, 3 years and over: 1 adult to 8 children) however as a **childminder** I am bound to the ratio of 1 adult to 3 children under the age of 5 years, unless an exception such as continuity of care applies.

This means that for all children 2 years and over, the subsidy is below the rate that I need in order to remain sustainable.

What is included in the NEF subsidy:

- Basic costs associated with providing quality childcare

What is not included:

- Food consumables, including:
 - Snacks
 - Lunch
 - Dinner
 - Cows' milk
 - Occasional meals and treats purchased outside of the setting
- Non-food consumables, including:
 - Nappies
 - Wipes
 - Nappy bags
 - Sun cream/sun block
 - Sun hat
 - Winter hat
 - Mittens/gloves
 - Snowsuit
 - Puddle suit
 - Wellies

- Activities, including:
 - Travel costs
 - One-off trips that incur additional costs such as entry fees
 - Regular entrance fees such as soft play
 - Annual memberships such as Whitlence Gardens
 - Regular activities such as Debutots, Nature Makers
 - Specialist tuition such as baby signing, music and language clubs
 - Subscriptions such as our annual Gardening Club subscription
 - Other subscriptions, memberships and activities that we may provide from time to time, over and above those required by the Early Years Statutory Framework
 - The costs relating to animal resources used for educational purposes such as the hatching of bird and insect eggs to experience life cycles, and therapeutic animal care and services.

Wild Things – Droitwich is proud to provide all of the above as standard, for all ages of children.

Occasionally, we may organise one-off trips that incur additional costs such as entry fees. Where these are arranged, we will discuss with you any additional costs and **may ask for a contribution** towards these.

2025-2026 allocation of NEF hours

Funding is offered over a 40 week period across the year, at a maximum of 28.5 funded hours per week. Please see the separately issued '2025-26 Calendar View' document which details which days are funded, which are non-funded and my setting closure dates.

Entitlement is calculated weekly, regardless of which days are attended and whether these fall on an open/closed day or not. This is in line with the requirements of the Local Authority governing my provision of NEF.

If your child is absent due to illness, family holiday or other reason at a time when I am open and have agreed to offer funded hours, the funded hours cannot be transferred to another time. If I am closed due to illness, holiday or other reason at a time when I have agreed to offer funded hours, I will endeavour to offer the funded hours at an alternative time, or to reduce the number of privately-funded hours by the unused number of NEF hours.

IMPORTANT – please note that if, for whatever reason funding is withdrawn or not paid by the Local Authority, you will be liable for full payment of the hours contracted/provided at my full private hourly rate.

Signature: Meg Hearne

Date: 23 May 2025