



Nursery Education Funding – Parent Information Sheet April 2026-27

What is Nursery Education Funding?

Nursery Education Funding (NEF), also known as Government Funded Childcare, 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.

What I include within your contracted NEF childcare hours

Wild Things – Droitwich is incredibly proud to offer so much more than quality childcare. This is provided to all children, regardless of their method of payment or funding for their childcare hours, and does not come with any additional charge or fee.

If you qualify for the full 30 hours of NEF childcare, you will receive the following **completely free of charge to you:**

- 3 full days of childcare (7.30am – 5.00pm) per week for 40 weeks of the year
- Food, 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 insect eggs to experience life cycles, and therapeutic animal care and services.

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.

Additional services that you can purchase

If can, if you wish, purchase additional days of childcare each week. You can also purchase childcare in the weeks that we are open beyond our funded offer of 40 weeks. These are chargeable at our private daily/hourly rate. Please see our Fees Policy for current details of these.

2026-2027 academic year allocation of NEF hours

All Year Round Funding is offered over a 40 week period across the year, at a maximum of 28.5 funded hours (3 x 9.5 hour days) per week.

2026-27	Autumn Term (1 st Sept – 31 st Dec)	Spring Term (1 st Jan – 31 st Mar)	Summer Term (1 st Apr – 31 st Aug)
No. of weeks	13.75	10.75	15.5
Dates	01/09/26-23/10/26 04/11/26-11/12/26	04/01/27 -12/02/27 22/02/27-18/03/27	12/04/27-28/05/27 07/06/27-23/07/27 02/08/27-12/08/27 (less 03/05/27 – bank hol)

Term Time Only Funding is offered over a 38 week period across the Worcestershire Local Authority's academic term dates, as stated on their website. These dates cover a 39 week period in total, with five Teacher Education Days (TED) being intended to be taken within these dates. We will agree with you which dates to exclude as 'TED'. In the event of no agreement being reached, my final five working days of the Worcestershire Local Authority's academic year (as stated on their website) will be taken as unfunded.

Entitlement and reimbursement of funded hours

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 date or, if I am not able to offer an alternative date, to reduce the number of privately-funded hours by the unused number of NEF hours.

Useful links

Apply for Nursery Education Funding: <https://www.gov.uk/free-childcare-if-working/apply-for-free-childcare-if-youre-working>

Apply for Tax-Free Childcare: <https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>

Worcestershire Local Authority information on help with paying for childcare: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/schools-education-and-learning/childcare/ways-paying-childcare>

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.