



Little Learners Nursery

30 hours funding information

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Introduction

This Nursery funding guide provides families with background information to help them make an informed choice about childcare. We have used the most up to date information available at time of going to press.

Government policy

As part of the Childcare Act 2016 the government offers 15 hours funded childcare, which is currently available to all three- and four- year-olds and some eligible two – year- olds. From September 2017, this will be increased to 30 hours for all eligible children. The 30 hours funding is applicable to term time only settings i.e. 38 weeks. Although funding may be stretched across more than 38 weeks where the setting can offer this provision.

Expected benefits of additional hours

A recently published Department of Education Report on Parents' views and demand for 30 hours funded childcare showed that parents said they would use the additional hours, if these were available to them, identified the following benefits:

- reduce the cost of existing childcare;
- to return to work or increase working hours/ days;
- to provide more time for children to socialise with others at their chosen provider;
- to increase time for children to prepare for school at the childcare provider.

What is stretch funding?

At Little Learners we use the stretch funding model which allows children to access funded Early Years Education for 50-weeks of the year. Eligible children accessing the extended entitlement will be able to attend Nursery up to 22.5 hours per week, all year round. At Little Learners we can offer a maximum of 1125 of 1140 funded education hours per year.

The most efficient way to access funded hours is three 'Short Days' (8.00am-3.30pm) i.e. $3 \times 7.5 = 22.5$ hours. You may also choose a different pattern of attendance, such as four 'AM's' (8.00am-1.00pm) i.e. $4 \times 5 = 20$ hours per week. We anticipate another popular option for claiming the extended entitlement to be two 'Full Day' sessions i.e. $2 \times 10 = 20$ hours.

These options will all allow your child to access their funded Early Years Education hours for free (optional meals can be added).

Any unused Early Education hours will not be claimed by Little Learners; they may be used at another setting or lost. If you choose to claim funded hours at more than one setting, you must inform both settings. Any hours attended you're your funded entitlement will be chargeable at standard rates.

Are there any other costs involved?

As funded Early Education hours do not include meals, a two course meal can be ordered from Edwards and Ward at £2.20 or you can provide your child with a packed lunch and/or tea.

Little Learners' sessions

Morning	8am-1pm	(5 hours)
Afternoon	1pm-6pm	(5 hours)
Short day	8am – 3.30pm	(7.5 hours)
Full day	8am – 6pm	(10 hours)

Can my child have more sessions or hours?

Yes! This can be easily arranged on a permanent basis. If you choose to pay for meals or book any additional sessions or hours, you will be invoiced in advance on a monthly basis.



This sounds great! Am I eligible?

For more information about eligibility please see the North Somerset 30 hours of funded childcare guide: <http://nsod.n-somerset.gov.uk/kb5/northsomerset/directory/advice.page?id=hnE-DGh-14>



It is important to note that if your child is entitled for the additional 15 hours this will not come into effect until the term after they have become eligible. (this may be at a different time to when they start their statutory entitlement). It is also important to note that if your child drops out of eligibility, their funding will cease after a short grace period.). This means that your child's attendance at Nursery will be reduced to statutory funded hours only unless you wish to maintain their attendance pattern by paying for the additional hours.

Terms

The date you can start claiming statutory Education hours depends on your child's birthday.

Child's birthday	When you can claim
1 January to 31 March	The beginning of term on or after 1 April
1 April to 31 August	The beginning of term on or after 1 September
1 September to 31 December	The beginning of term on or after 1 January

Extended entitlement hours will be accessible the term after eligibility is confirmed, i.e. September, January or April. It is possible and we recommend

reserving your sessions in as much advance as possible. Families who choose to book sessions in advance of confirmation of eligibility must provide Little Learners with their code as soon as it is available.

What do I need to do?

All parents are advised to visit www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator where you can sign up receive an email notification for details of how to apply.

When the eligibility checker becomes live, families will need to check whether they are eligible for the additional 15 hours of funding. If your child meets the criteria they will be given a unique reference code, which you need to share with us. We then check your code as part of the finance process with North Somerset Council.

We are expecting the eligibility tool to become live from around April 2017. We will allow parents to book additional sessions prior to confirming eligibility; providing they also return a signed copy of our updated terms and conditions.

How do I find out more?

Please forward any questions to the Little Learners email and we will do our best to answer:

littlelearners@stannesprimaryschool.co.uk. Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter (@LLearnersWSM) as we will share updates via our social media, as well as through our weekly newsletter.



'Learn to love.....Love to learn'