
Funded Childcare Hours

How the government's 15 and 30 free hours work at Tree Tots

Valid from September 2025

30 Hours Funding

As of September 2025, the Government introduced '30 free hours funding' for eligible children aged between 9 months and 5 years old.

- This funding can be used at any Nursery, Pre-school or Childminder registered for the scheme.
- The 30 hours are based on an academic year. Term-time providers spread funding over 38 weeks. As Tree Tots is open all year round, we spread it over the full year — equivalent to **22 free hours per week**.
- Funding covers a maximum of 10 hours per day.
- The funded provision must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework.

When You Can Start Claiming

The date you can start claiming depends on your child's birthday:

Child turns 9-months old between	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

Eligibility Criteria

You will be eligible for 30 hours funded childcare if:

- You earn, or expect to earn, the equivalent of 16 hours per week at National Minimum Wage or more. This applies whether you are in paid employment, self-employed or on a zero hours' contract.
- You (and your partner, where applicable) are seeking the free childcare to enable you to work, or you are on maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave, or statutory sick leave.
- One parent meets the income criteria but the other is unable to work because they are disabled, have caring responsibilities, or have been assessed as having limited capability to work.
- You (or your partner) are in a 'start-up period' as a newly self-employed person — you do not need to demonstrate that you meet the income criteria for the first 12 months.

You will not be eligible if:

- Either parent has an income of more than £100,000.
- Either parent is a non-EEA national subject to immigration control with no recourse to public funds.

Any child not eligible for the 30-hour funding will still be eligible for the 15 hours entitlement the term after their third birthday.

How It Works at Tree Tots

Sessions

Tree Tots is open Monday to Friday, 7am–6pm (11 hours per day).

As funded hours only cover a maximum of 10 hours per day, if you need nursery services for the full 11 hours, there will be a charge of £10 per funded day for the additional hour.

Spreading the Funding

Tree Tots is open all year round (except the week between Christmas and New Year), so we spread your funding over 51 weeks.

- **This equals 22 funded hours per week.**
- Funding covers a maximum of 10 hours per day — this gives you two fully funded 10-hour sessions per week, with 2 hours remaining each week.

Those remaining 2 hours each week can either be:

- **a) Forfeited** — for families only using services for two days per week.
- **b) Saved up** — for families using services more than two days per week. You accrue 2 funded hours per week, so after 5 weeks you'll have 10 hours saved — enough to fund a third full day every 5th week.

Additional Costs — Meals and Snacks

We ask parents to contribute a small optional charge per funded session to cover the cost of meals, drinks and snacks. These charges are optional — you may opt out and provide your own food instead (see note below).

Session	Meal charge	Meals included
10 hour day	£16	Breakfast, lunch, afternoon snack, tea
5 hour morning session	£12	Breakfast and lunch
5 hour afternoon session	£12	Afternoon snack and tea

If you do not wish to pay the meal charge, you are welcome to provide all food and snacks for your child for the day. Please note that food must be allergen-safe and ready to eat — we are unable to heat or prepare food brought from home.

15 Hours Funding

The 15 hours funded entitlement is still available to all three- and four-year-olds who are not eligible for the 30-hour scheme. This funding is not subject to any income or employment criteria.

- As with the 30-hour funding, at Tree Tots we spread the 15 hours over 51 weeks, equivalent to **11 funded hours per week**.
 - This means a second funded day is accrued every 10th week.
 - Meal charges apply as shown in the table above.
-

Get in touch

Email: treetotsnursery@outlook.com

Phone: 01625 874 555

Visit us: Tree Tots Day Nursery, Willow Close, Poynton, SK12 1RG