



Fountain Montessori Fees and funding - Explained

Welcome



We hope this guide will help you understand how to claim your funding for your child once they are eligible and how the nursery can assist.

Fountain Montessori (FM) is an accredited Montessori center of excellence. Our aim is to partner with you to educate your child for life.

There are a few different ways to help fund your childcare. It can be tricky to get to grips with all the ins and outs, so we've put together this handy pack to guide you through.

From explaining the government's 15 and 30 hours schemes in England, to covering off those essential daily costs that create our unique Fountain Montessori experience, we'll help you work out all the fees and funding.

Once that's sorted, we can all focus on the most important thing: taking care of your precious child

15 Hours Funding



This funding covers 15 hours of childcare across 38 weeks of term time.

All parents of 2*(eligible only), 3 and 4 year olds can access this scheme.

Here's what you need to know:

- All 3 and 4 year olds qualify for this scheme.
- At Fountain Montessori, we can 'stretch' these hours over the whole year for more flexibility.

How we do this varies between our nurseries, as it depends on how many weeks a particular centre can stretch the funding for, but most of our parents access around 11.4 funded hours per week over 50 weeks.

- Our parents usually need their child to spend longer in nursery than funding allows, but that's no problem. We offer additional, non-funded hours to fit in with your schedule – **see our fees sheet.**
- You might be eligible for 15 hours funded childcare at the same time as other government schemes or incentives.

Visit the government's [Childcare Choices site](#) to find out more.

- **The essentials and extras are not covered by government funding and parents will be asked to pay for this.**

These are a voluntary contribution for 'free funded' spaces

30 Hours Funding



- This scheme is only for working parents of 3 and 4 year olds, and offers twice as many funded hours each week, **30 hours of childcare across 38 weeks of term time** and, like the 15 hours scheme, if you're living with your partner you'll need to apply together.

- Parents: - Should be working at least 16 hours a week - Can be on sick leave or parental leave - Must each earn less than £100,000 a year - Might still be eligible while claiming benefits.

- We can 'stretch' these hours, too – as with the 15 hours scheme, how that works varies between our nurseries. Most parents access around 22.8 funded hours per week, across 50 weeks.

- Again, we can offer your child more than 30 hours per week, if you need them see our fee sheet.

- **The essentials and extras are not covered by government funding and parents will be asked to pay for this. See the government website for who can claim**

These are a voluntary contribution for 'free funded' spaces



Essentials and extras

Essential and extras

Enhancements and activities

From their favourite toys and play equipment to books, art supplies, specialist training - music and dance, ICT, drama, French and more, this covers absolutely everything we need to create the enriching experiences that make us so very special – and everything your child needs to learn, play, grow, and practice their language and communication. It's everything they need for the best start in life.

Meals, drinks and snacks

Our on-site chefs prepare healthy, delicious, NHS accredited food every single day, offering a starter or dessert with every meal along with lots of fresh, nutritious snacks.

Toiletries

We do all we can to keep your child feeling clean and comfortable, and can also work with you to support them with potty training, building their confidence and independence

Essentials and extras

Montessori Curriculum and Materials

Specialist teacher training led curriculum designed for each stage and individual child as well as natural and curious led materials to support the child learning and development.

School ready programme

Proven and tested excellent school and life ready program - we know how important it is to feel prepared for that next step, so we help to build every child's skills to make the transition to school life simpler.

Parent App

Instant contact through videos, photos and recording showing your child progress and wow moments at nursery. Keep in touch with what going on and share wow moments from home. Receive EYFS reports on key stages of development and monitor your child progress at each stage of their journey.

Our Fees

Government funding only pays for a limited number of hours, it doesn't pay for all the essentials and extras that make Fountain Montessori such a special place. To help us give your child the best start in life, we'll ask you to pay for these along with the rest of your hours.

Funded hours - 15 hours or 30 hours, which are allocated pro rata per session and per full day.

Non-funded - hours Additional hours that cover the rest of your child's time in nursery.

Essentials and extras per funded hour -All of these are not funded by the government and parents will be asked to pay for these. *These are a voluntary contribution for 'free funded' spaces*

Hourly rate for non-funded hours The charge for those additional hours.

Combined fees This is how much you'll pay Fountain Montessori for that session, day, or week in total.



How to apply for funding

When to apply



How and when you need to apply for your childcare funding depends on their age, and the term dates.

There are 3 terms dates, if your child turns 3 during the term they can apply from the next terms

Term 1 - 1 Sept -31 Dec

Term 2 - 1 Jan - 31 Mar

Term 3 - 1 Apr- 31 Aug

30 Hour code applications must be made before the end of each term to be eligible the next term.

Remember!

Every three months, sign into your HMRC childcare account to reconfirm your 30 hours eligibility, then send your code to Finance@fountainmontessori.com. If you forget, you might lose your funding for the following term, which means you'll have to pay our standard fee for any time that isn't covered by the basic 15 hours scheme.

How to apply



15 hours funded childcare for 3 and 4 year olds

All you have to do is get in touch with your nursery. Our lovely team will talk you through the process and ask to see your child's birth certificate or passport as proof of eligibility. It's as simple as that!

For eligible 2 year olds

You must get written confirmation from your local authority. Then show your confirmation to the manager of your nursery and if eligible, your funding will start the term following application. Bear in mind that these funded places for 2 year olds are limited, so you'll need to speak to your centre director about availability first.

30 hours funded care application

Step 1

Visit the government website: gov.uk/apply-30-hours-free-childcare

Step 2

Apply for your 30 hours eligibility code. You'll need your National Insurance number, too. The earliest you can apply is 16 weeks before your child's third birthday.

How to apply conti.



30 hour funded care application cont'd

Step 3

Wait for a decision. It might be instant, but can take up to seven days.

Step 4

Share your code with your chosen Fountain Montessori nursery by filling in the required form, along with your National Insurance number, full name, date of birth, and your child's birth certificate or passport.

Step 5

Remember to reconfirm your eligibility every three months.

All funding options

Every term, we'll need you to sign our funding terms and conditions and complete a local authority Parental Declaration form. We can then carry on claiming funding for your child's place at nursery.



FAQs

FAQs



Do Fountain Montessori offer totally free places?

Yes, although we prefer to call these 'funded', not 'free'. All of our centres offer funded places where parents won't need to pay for their child. While these are released each term, places are first come, first served and depend on staffing levels. As parents don't need to contribute towards these places, there's an operational and financial impact on our nurseries – so to ensure the care we provide isn't affected, and that our centres can run sustainably, we have to limit the number available at each centre.

If I pay for extra hours and don't use them, can I be refunded?

Unfortunately not. We have to make sure we're covering all our running and team costs to provide high quality care for every child at Fountain Montessori.

FAQs



I've missed the deadline to apply for my 30 Hour Code. Can my child still be funded?

Codes only provide funding in the term after you apply, so if you miss the deadline (on the last day of March, August and December), then you're still eligible for 15 hours, because it's available to all children, regardless of whether parents are working. HMRC might prompt you to reconfirm your code before the start of the new term, so please remember to do this to stay eligible. When you have your code, give it to your child's nursery we'll check it's valid with the local authority and confirm your child's place.

I'm planning to take my child on holiday. How will this affect my funded childcare?

If you're planning on being away for under two weeks, generally this is fine, but the more notice you can provide, the better. If it's likely to be longer than this, talk to the team at your child's nursery. They may need to check with the local authority about whether funding can continue.

FAQs



Can I roll over my 15 or 30 funded hours into the next term?

Sorry, due to restrictions by various local authorities we can't roll over your hours, but we can stretch your child's funding instead. If you're eligible for 15 hours, by stretching, you can claim your child's funding allowance of up to 570 hours in just three visits each week over a whole year. If you're a working parent claiming 30 hours, you can access up to 1140 hours in six visits per week, all year round. Please speak to the centre director at your child's nursery to find out more.

Nurseries in my area allow parents to send in packed lunches. Does Fountain Montessori?

Unfortunately we don't allow packed lunches or snacks from home at our nurseries; many of the children in our care have allergies, and we just can't put their safety at risk. Our menus are healthy, varied, and NHS approved, and we cater for special dietary requirements, cultural food choices, allergies, and fussy eaters, so every child can look forward to tasty food they love to eat.



Useful numbers

Useful Numbers



BARNET COUNCIL

2, 3 and 4 year funding
EarlyYears@barnet.gov.uk
Tel : 020 8359 3052
Council webpage

BRENT COUNCIL

2, 3 and 4 year funding
cfis@brent.gov.uk
Tel :0208 937 3010
Council webpage

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

2, 3 and 4 year funding
childcare@hertfordshire.gov.uk
Council Page

30 hour Funding applications

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>
HELPLINE 0300 123 4097