

Cobtree Playschool for Special Children

Fees and Early Years Funding

Parent Guide

From April 2024 the government has made big investments in their support for childcare, with eligible working parents able to access 15 hours of government funded childcare for 2-year-olds.

This current offer of childcare will be extended from May 2024 for eligible working parents to access government funded children for children aged between 9 months and 23 months for September 2024 term.

Parents must apply for an eligibility code for this funding – this code must be given to our manager to be able to claim the funding for your child from our local authority, along with your national insurance number, and date of birth.

These codes need to be reviewed every three months—i.e. those applying before 1st June will need to make sure they renew their code before the offer starting in September.

A child can start the supported childcare place the term after they are eligible and have received a valid eligibility code. Term dates are 1 September 1 January 1 April.

Our childcare fees will be applied for attendance before eligibility confirmation.

Apply and register for support online, visit : [childcare choices website childcarechoices.gov.uk](https://childcarechoices.gov.uk).

Or talk to HMRC for help on applying for your eligibility code for funded childcare Tel: 0300 123 4097

Sign up for Childcare choices newsletter.

Government extended offer- how many hours of childcare you can get per week ?

AGE	15 hours	30 hours	notes
9 months- 2 years	WORKING FAMILIES FROM SEPT 2024	WORKING FAMILIES FROM SEPT 2025	Apply for you eligibility code. Renew every 3 months
2- 3 YEAR OLDS	CURRENTLY ELIGIBLE FAMILIES RECEIVING GOVERNMENT AND SUPPORT WORKING FAMILIES FROM APRIL 2024	WORKING FAMILIES FROM SEPT 2025	Apply for your eligibility code. Renew every 3 months
3-4-YEAR-OLD	ALL PARENTS	ALL PARENTS	

- **Tax free childcare –**

Currently you may be able to receive up to £500 every three months for each of your children to help towards the costs of childcare, rising up to £1000 if a child is disabled.

You will need to follow step by step guidance to check if you are eligible and create a childcare account.

www.gov.uk tax free childcare

visit Childcare Choices to see what support you may be eligible for, now and in the future.

- **Early years Pupil Premium. (EYPP) from April 2024-**

This is additional funding available for settings to support learning and development within the setting for eligible 2-, 3- and 4-year-old children.

Parent and carers will need to complete the relevant section of the parental declaration giving providers permission to apply for EYPP. The parent needs to be claiming one of the benefits or credits listed below to enable Management Information to check for eligibility. Children may be eligible for EYPP if they meet the “Other Criteria” shown below.

EYPP Economic Criteria

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit Run-on (this is paid for 4 weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit if a parent is entitled to Universal Credit, they must have an annual net **earned** income equivalent to and not exceeding £7,400, assessed on up to three of the parent’s most recent Universal Credit assessment periods.

Criteria

- Children who have left the care of a local authority as a result of an adoption order in England/Wales.
- Children who have left the care of a local authority as a result of a special guardianship order in England/Wales

Our setting will apply for EYPP following by KCC management information systems in line with funding claim submissions at the start of each term .They will conduct the necessary checks to ensure your child is eligible for this funding. EYPP funding is paid directly to our setting.

- **Sen inclusion fund (SENIF)**

From April 2017, it has been a statutory requirement for the local authority to provide additional top up support for settings supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities. This will be known as the SEN Inclusion Fund (SENIF).

To be Eligible...

- Children must be attending a Kent setting.
- SENIF can be considered for pre-school children who do not have an EHCP. (if a child has a Final EHCP they will be receiving funding elsewhere.)
- Children must be in receipt of nursery education entitlement 3 or 4 years old, for a maximum of 30 hours a week over 38 weeks a year.
- It is non-statutory to provide this funding for two-year-olds in receipt of nursery education entitlement, but Kent will continue to fund support for these children up to a maximum of 15 hours.
- Children with an agreed, evidenced deferred entry to school can be considered at a SENIF complex Case Panel Meeting.

All applications for SENIF will need evidence that the child's needs are recognised as requiring SEN Support as defined in the [SEND code of practice 0-25](#).

- **Disability Living Allowance (DLA)**

Disability living allowance for children may help with the extra costs of looking after a child who is under 16, has difficulties walking or needs more looking after than a child of the same age who does not have a disability. The rates available will depend on the level of help that a child needs. The child may be assessed to work out what help they need. Parents are to use the DLA claim form to apply for DLA. The form tells you where to send your application.

Guidance and support is available from www.gov.uk or telephone [0345 712 3456](tel:03457123456).

- **Disability Access Fund (DAF)**

Disability Access Fund (DAF) introduced in April 2017, provides funding to support children with disabilities or special educational needs. The DAF aids access to early years places by, for example, supporting providers in making reasonable adjustments to their provision. (from summer term 2024 this is now set at £910 annually)

The DAF has been extended to include eligible two-year-olds until September 2023.

Two Three and four-year old children may be eligible for the DAF if they meet the following criteria:

- The child is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA); and
- The child receives free early education and childcare.

If a child who is eligible for DAF is splitting their funded hours across two or more providers, the parent must nominate one of the settings to receive the DAF funding as this cannot be split.

Cobtree Playschool will use this funding to support our provision to be able to give the high level of care and support we have embedded in our ethos of practice. The Funding for example could include supporting the child's Physiotherapy sessions, the specialist equipment and resources required to meet their individual needs, or training needed to ensure the skills of staff and one to one helpers are updated to support their inclusion, or adaptations to an area of our hall to support access. We will work closely with parents to ensure that this annual funding is used to meet the requirements and needs to support their child.

• Fee's

For those not able to claim the free entitlement funding, our hourly fees will match the current entitlement funded rate given by our local authority for 2-year-olds.

As of April 2024 this is £ 7.55ph

• Fees for essential and extra's - effective from September 2024

While having the support from government funding towards childcare fess, it only contributes to the costs of supporting the children's attended hours and does not pay for all the essentials and extras, that make our setting such a special place for the those entrusted into our care.

To help us in being able to provide the care and personalised valuable experiences, resources and activities for all the children we are asking for contributions towards these costs.

These include:

Toiletries:- we do all that we can to keep the children feeling clean and comfortable and can also collaborate with you to support potty training.

Drinks and snacks:- although we do ask that all parents provide their child snacks and a drink, we provide a few healthy extras to supplement as appropriate to meet needs.

Enhancements, resources and activities:- we aim to offer a large variety of fun exciting and educational and sensory fulfilling experiences for all the children, to support their personalised planning targets, motivators, interests and sensory regulating behaviours. . Our key team create opportunities for the children to develop their individual skills and build on their learning and development, physical , social and communication skills and the supplies needed to create and provide these routinely for the children have to be readily available.

Payment of fees to contribute to these costs will be invoiced termly and based over equal instalments to cover the full 38-week year.