

## Government Funded Places at Flo's Nature Nursery from April 2026

In England, government funding is available for all 3 and 4 year-olds and many 2 year olds.

- All 3 and 4 year old children are entitled to 15 hours of Universal Funding.
- Some 2 year old children may be entitled to 15 hours Early Learning Funding for Families Receiving Additional Support (FRAS).
- Some 2 - 4 year old working families may be entitled to up to 30 hours of Working Family Funding.

All government funding can be claimed against regularly attended hours only. You may not claim more hours than you attend. It also cannot be used to pay for ad-hoc sessions, meals, or breakfast clubs. You may use Tax-Free Childcare to pay for these if eligible.

All of the above funding (except for Universal Funding) needs to be applied for in the term before your child is due to start nursery. For further details on eligibility, application deadlines, and to apply please visit <https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/>

All funded places are provisionally offered until funding codes (if applicable) are checked and proof of the child's date of birth provided. A Parental Declaration Form will be sent to parents to be completed ahead of the relevant term to confirm claims for government funding.

### Combining Schemes

Where families are eligible for both the FRAS/Universal Funding, and Working Family Funding, the 15 hours FRAS/Universal Funding must be claimed first, and then you may claim up to an additional 15 hours under Working Family Funding for a maximum total of 30 funded hours.

Tax-Free Childcare or Universal Credit Childcare from qualifying working families may also be used to help pay your childcare fees. This can be used to pay for any additional nursery fees not covered by the government 15 or 30 funded hours.

### Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

Some children may be eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP). The eligibility criteria are available on the [council website](#). We apply for this funding for children who complete the relevant section of the Parental Declaration Form and will notify you if you qualify - application for this funding will not affect your other benefits.

## Disability Access Funding (DAF)

Disability Access Funding is available for children who are:

- Currently in receipt of Disability Living Allowance
- receiving funded early education as a 9-23-month, 2 or 3 & 4-year-old

To be eligible for DAF, the child must be named on their current DLA award letter (children whose siblings attract DLA but don't themselves would not be eligible).

This funding can only be used at one provider and cannot be shared. To nominate Flo's as their chosen provider, parents should complete the relevant section on the Parental Declaration form to receive DAF if they share their funded hours between more than one provider.

For full details please visit:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/children-and-families/information-parents/find-childcare/help-paying-childcare/funding-children-send>

## Stretched Funding

The government's Early Years Funding normally offers funded places over 38 weeks/year (term time only). At Flo's we want to make access to the free entitlement as flexible as possible - this is why we stretch the funding across 48 weeks as opposed to the term time only 38 week period. This enables families to access more weeks of funded hours than would otherwise be available to them if restricted under a term time only structure.

Each session at Flo's Nature Nursery is a half day 4 hours long, in the morning or afternoon. A full day counts as 2 sessions. If you are eligible for 15 hours/week, at Flo's you will receive 12 hours/week (3 sessions) over 48 weeks/year, and if you are eligible for 30 hours/week you will receive 24 hours/week (6 sessions) over 48 weeks/year.

## Entitlement start dates

Two Year old Funding is available from the beginning of the term following your child's second birthday. Three or Four year olds funding is available from the beginning of the term following your child's third birthday.

Child's birthday	Funding starts
born in the period 1 January to 31 March	term beginning on or following 1 April after the child's birthday
born in the period 1 April to 31 August	term beginning on or following 1 September after the child's birthday
born in the period 1 September to 31 December	term beginning on or following 1 January after the child's birthday

Working Family entitlement can only be claimed from the term after your child's second birthday at the earliest, even if you are entitled to it from 9 months of age. This is because Flo's is not set up to accept under 2s, we cannot access the Working Family Funding for 9 - 23 months old.

## Splitting funding across multiple settings

It is possible for you to split your 30 hour entitlement across multiple settings. Your child may not attend more than two settings per day. We will need to be informed on how you would like to split your funding entitlement. All funded places at Flo's are a minimum of 15 hours, it is not possible to split further. You may not overlap your funding claims across providers, and your total claim should not exceed the 30 hours you are entitled to. Eg. You may claim 15 hours Universal Funding at Flo's, and 15 hours Working Family Funding at a second provider. We do not normally split 15h FRAS or 15h Universal Funding.

## Important please read - Meal and Forest School Session Charges

The government funding only covers the basic provision. The funding is not intended to be used to cover the costs of meals, consumables, any additional hours or services.

To enable us to continue to provide healthy nutritious meals and exciting outings and Forest School sessions, we apply a small charge for meals and forest school sessions.

The cost is:

<b>Meals:</b> healthy lunches/teas provided by our onsite café serving fresh and seasonal vegetarian food, a healthy dessert, usually natural yogurt and smoothie or fruit, as well as a healthy snack, consisting of fruit/veg and rice cakes/corn cakes etc.	£5.50 per session per week
<b>Forest School sessions:</b> led by qualified and trained staff in NaturEscape. The perfect environment to build dens, climb trees, make tree swings, make fires, and enjoy storytelling in magical spots.	£4.20 per session per week

Please note that we cover the meal and Forest School session fees for children who are accessing 2 year old Early Learning Funding for Families Receiving Additional Support (FRAS) or attracting Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP).

Paying these charges is not a condition for taking up a fully funded place.

We maintain the right to withdraw children from Forest School sessions, if the family chooses not to pay for these.

We do not want any child to be excluded from our enhanced activities, please talk to us in confidence if you would struggle to pay for these.

If a family chooses not to have meals provided by our cafe, please speak to us in confidence to explore alternative options.

The table below illustrates some fee amounts you may pay depending on level of funding accessed and number of sessions attended:

<b>Funding accessed and number of sessions attended</b>	<b>Estimated monthly fee</b>
15 hours Working Family + 15 hours Universal Funding attending 6 sessions per week	$(£5.50 + £4.20) \times 6 \text{ sessions} \times 4 \text{ weeks} = £232.80 \text{ monthly}$
15 hours FRAS + 15 hours Working Family attending 6 sessions per week	$(£5.50 + £4.20) \times 3 \text{ sessions} \times 4 \text{ weeks} = £116.40 \text{ monthly}$
15 hours Universal Funding with EYPP attending 3 sessions per week	No monthly fee

15 hours Universal Funding + 15 hours Working Family Funding attending 4 sessions per week	$(£5.50 + £4.20) \times 4 \text{ sessions} \times 4 \text{ weeks} =$ £155.20 monthly
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It is our policy to speak with each family prior to registration to ensure that our funding options work for them and that, as far as possible, the pattern of hours we offer is convenient.

Parents should provide consumables such as nappies for their child. We do not charge for these.

### Registration fee and deposit

A registration fee of £50 is payable with your full application documents to secure a place as soon as one has been offered.

The registration fee is refundable for fully funded children (e.g. those who are accessing the government funded places only). It will be refunded when your child takes up the place and you complete the Parental Declaration for the applicable term.

A deposit is not required for fully funded children.

For information on fees relating to unfunded hours, please visit our website at [floxford.org.uk/information-for-parents](http://floxford.org.uk/information-for-parents) for our current session charges and fees.

### Withdrawing funded hours notice period

A 14 day notice period (including weekends, holidays, and closure days) is required to withdraw government funded hours. This is counted from the day of your child's last attendance or the date you give written notice, whichever is earlier.

If you are moving your funding to a new provider during the notice period, your new provider cannot claim funding until the 14 day notice period at Flo's is finished.