

## Funded Sessions - a brief guide for parents

You may be aware that there is government funding available for parents towards the cost of childcare. More information is available: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk> Entitlement commences at the start of the term after your child's birthday. We will be able to offer funding from the Summer Term, which begins at the end of April. We anticipate that some children may start with us before they are eligible for funding.

All 3 and 4 year old children are entitled to a maximum of 570 hours of free childcare per year. Some families qualify for an additional 570 hours, giving a maximum of 1140 hours. Some providers divide this over 38 weeks of the year, (15 and 30 hours funding). Always Growing will divide this funding across 51 weeks of the year, known as stretch funding.

Funded places are offered on a first come basis and with consideration to the sessions requested in relation to those we have available. To access funding you will need to demonstrate your eligibility and be signed up to our offer contract. Funded places are designed for children attending our nursery.

### Fee Paying and Funded Offer – Stretched

You will be given your funded hours free and pay for the additional hours your child attends as per our fee schedule. We accept payment through childcare vouchers, tax free childcare scheme or bank transfer. All additional services, food and consumables are included. Hours relate to the session length. A half-day session is 5 hours and a full-day session is 10 hours. Sessions can only be used on one day and hours cannot be carried forward.

**15 hour funding package** is offered at a rate of 11 free hours per week, with the remaining hours chargeable. Your child will attend for a minimum of 20 hours per week. This could be split into 4 half day sessions per week or two full days or a combination of the two. This means that there is a charge for the non-funded hours per week that your child attends. Your child can attend for more than the minimum 20 hours per week. For example, if your child attends for 30 hours per week, you will receive 11 hours of free childcare and pay for the additional 19 hours.

**30 hours funding package** is offered at a rate of 22 free hours per week, with the remaining hours chargeable. Your child will attend for a minimum of 30 hours per week. This could be 3 full days per week, or a combination of full and half day sessions. This means that there is a charge for the non-funded hours per week that your child attends. Your child can attend for more than the minimum 30 hours per week. For example, if your child attends for 40 hours per week, you will receive 22 hours of free childcare and pay for the additional 18 hours.

If you would like a more bespoke quote or have some additional questions please get in touch with us [info@alwaysgrowing.co.uk](mailto:info@alwaysgrowing.co.uk)