

**EARLY NURSERY EDUCATION FUNDING
FOR
3 AND 4 YEAR OLDS**

**Harrow
Families
Information
Service**

September 2011 – March 2012

Nursery Education Funding For 3 And 4 Year Olds

All eligible 3 and 4 year olds in Harrow are eligible for nursery education funding from the term after their third birthday until the end of the school term before they reach statutory school age (the term after the child's fifth birthday.)

To be eligible to receive the funding providers should be:

- Registered by Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills) or by the Independent Schools' Inspectorate, and
- A member of Harrow Integrated Early Years and Community Partnership

CLAIMING THE FUNDING

In order to receive the funding your child must be enrolled at your choice of registered childcare provider (day nurseries, pre-schools or independent schools in the private, voluntary and maintained sector) by the headcount week (this is an agreed date within the third week of any new term). Children enrolled after this date but before the half term may receive half of the terms funding.

The money is paid directly to the childcare provider your child attends. In some cases (but not all), providers might ask parents/carers to pay the fees, but the fee will be returned to them later when the provider receives the grant. This is a matter of agreement between parents/carers and the provider.

If a child is attending a local authority school nursery for 15 hours a week (which is the most common pattern of attendance) no other setting can claim. If your child attends less than the 15 hours offered by the school, as well as a private or voluntary nursery, the school automatically receives the whole of the grant, so another setting cannot claim for the balance of the 15 hours not claimed in the school nursery.

If your child attends more than one setting it is your responsibility to inform them both. It is a maximum of 15 hours per week across all settings in and out of Borough.

If you decide to change your childcare provider part way through a term - the free entitlement will not automatically transfer with your child to your new provider (talk to your provider before you make a decision or call the Families Information Service).

The setting can charge for additional services (e.g. snacks, trips etc) or childcare, additional to the free entitlement. It is recommended that you discuss any additional fees with your chosen childcare provider prior to taking up the place.

A child moving to England from another country is entitled to free early years provision on the same basis as any other child regardless of whether they have British citizenship.

You must satisfy yourself that your childcare provider has the full details of your child (including date of birth, home address and postcode), and check that the numbers of days/hours are correct and then sign the claim form.

It is a criminal offence to make false claims for funding and any suspected false claims will be treated seriously and the appropriate action taken.

If you claim the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit you must declare the free entitlement when you apply for Working Tax Credit or when this is reviewed. It is important to inform the Tax Credit Helpline if you are receiving the free entitlement, otherwise your Tax Credit claim may be affected.

Please note if your child goes to a childminder the funding is not currently available.

FUNDED HOURS

Funding is available for all three and four year olds attending an eligible childcare provider (day nurseries, pre-schools or independent schools in the private, voluntary and maintained sector) in the borough.

The grant is calculated on the basis of attendance for a maximum of 38 weeks per year. The grant will be paid pro-rata to a setting that opens fewer than 38 weeks for the number of weeks they are open.

The full 15 hours must be taken over a minimum of 3 days (this would permit up to 12.5 hours over 2 days). The limits are:

- No session longer than 10 hours.
- No session shorter than 2.5 hours.
- Not before 8am or after 6pm.

The eligible dates of birth for the free entitlement are set nationally by the Secretary of State – these are as follows.

A child born on or between:	Will be eligible for a funded place from:
1 April and 31 August	Autumn Term (September – December)
1 September and 31 December	Spring Term (January – April)
1 January and 31 March	Summer Term (April – July)

The number of the funded weeks varies each term:

No of weeks open per term	No of hours claimed	Hourly rate	Half term payment	Full term payment
11	15	£3.60	£297.00	£594.00
12	15	£3.60	£324.00	£648.00
13	15	£3.60	£351.00	£702.00
14	15	£3.60	£378.00	£756.00
11	12.5	£3.60	£247.50	£495.00
12	12.5	£3.60	£270.00	£540.00
13	12.5	£3.60	£292.50	£585.00
14	12.5	£3.60	£315.00	£630.00

The maximum funded weeks that can be claimed for the forthcoming year are:

AUTUMN TERM 2011

Headcount week: Thursday 15 September to Wednesday 21 September 2011.

Eligible date of birth: 1 September 2006 and 31 August 2008 (inclusive)

Funded weeks: 14 Weeks

SPRING TERM 2012

Headcount week: Thursday 19 January - Wednesday 25 January 2012.

Eligible date of birth: 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2008 (inclusive)

Funded weeks: 12 weeks

SUMMER TERM 2012

Headcount week: Thursday 3 May - Wednesday 9 May 2012.
Eligible date of birth: 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2009 (inclusive)
Funded weeks: 12 weeks

HARROW SCHOOL TERM DATES

Autumn Term 2011

Thursday 1 September - Friday 16 December
Half term: Monday 24 October - Friday 28 October

Spring Term 2012

Wednesday 4 January - Friday 30 March
Half term: Monday 13 February - Friday 17 February

Summer Term 2012

Monday 16 April - Friday 20 July
May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 7 May
Half term: Monday 4 June - Friday 8 June

For a full list of all registered childcare providers in Harrow please contact the Families Information Service (FIS) on 020 8416 8416 or visit www.harrow.gov.uk/preschoolplaces

Further help with childcare costs:

Tax Credits	0845 300 3900
Harrow Benefits Centre	020 8426 3000
Lone Parent Advisers at Harrow Jobcentre Plus	020 8210 5800
Harrow Citizens Advice Bureau	0844 826 9711
Working Families	020 7253 7243

Families Information Service
Harrow Teachers' Centre
Tudor Road
Wealdstone
HA3 5PQ

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fis@harrow.gov.uk
www.harrow.gov.uk/fis