



Fee's & Admissions Policy (Cont.)

Free Early Education (FEE) – Funded Hours

2 YEAR OLDS

15 Hours Funded Childcare for 2-Year-Olds

Your 2-year-old is eligible for 15 hours of funded childcare per week if you live in England and get any of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit, and your household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, not including benefit payments
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit (or both), and your household income is £16,190 a year or less before tax
- the Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Support through part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act – NASS support

They are also eligible if:

- they are looked after by a local authority
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- get Disability Living Allowance
- have left care under an adoption order, special guardianship order or a child arrangements order

Free for 2 funding is available Ringle Rainbow Nursery providing that the family meets the requirements set out by Kent County Council. These places are offered on a termly basis and are subject to availability. To check eligibility and apply online please visit KCC website: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/childcare-and-pre-school/free-childcare#tab-1> If your application is successful you will be given a 6 digit code to be presented to the nursery.



3-4 YEAR OLDS

Every child will be eligible for Free Early Education (FEE) from the start of the term following their third birthday. Terms are split into the traditional three academic periods:

A CHILD BORN ON OR BETWEEN:	Free Early Education Will Commence From:
1st September - 31st December	Start of term 3 in January following their 3rd birthday
1st January - 31st March	This will be the start of the term 5 in April following the Easter Holidays following their 3 rd birthday
1st April - 31st August	Start of term 1 in September following their 3 rd birthday

FREE EARLY EDUCATION UNIVERSAL ENTITLEMENT - 3 & 4 Year Olds - (15 Hours)

Please see table below on the Free Early Education Entitlement (FEE) and how your child can access their hours at Ringle Rainbow Nursery and the associated costs for additional hours. You will be invoiced in the usual way. You will receive notification in advance of your child becoming eligible for the free entitlement. For further information please speak with the Management team and visit <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/childcare-and-pre-school/free-childcare#tab-2> or www.childcarechoices.gov.uk for more information.

3 & 4 YEAR OLDS OF WORKING PARENTS (THE EXTENDED ENTITLEMENT) – (30 Hours)

Parents must apply for the extended entitlement through the digital childcare service. HMRC is responsible for checking whether a parent is eligible and issuing an 11-digit eligibility code. Unlike the universal entitlement, which only has an age criterion, parents also need to meet income requirements in order to qualify for the extended entitlement. Parents should be encouraged to apply to HMRC the term before their child meets the age criterion in order to ensure they can access a place at the start of the term after their child's third birthday. If not, they will need to wait until the following term to access their 30 hours place. In order to offer the hours Ringle Rainbow Nursery will have to validate the 11-digit code with Kent County Council. To do this we will need the code and parent's national insurance numbers.

At Ringle Rainbow Nursery the FEE and extended entitlement hours are offered in the following formats.

<p>FULL DAY – 8am to 6pm</p> <p>(6 hours funded)</p>	<p>Includes 6 hours funding per session</p> <p>Please note this covers the cost of childcare only</p>	<p>Plus, an additional fee of £35</p> <p>Additional Charge is broken down as follows £26 for 4 additional hours; £4.50 for hot cooked lunch, £5 for breakfast, mid-morning & afternoon snacks, tea and all drinks.</p>
<p>MORNING SESSION – 8am to 1pm</p> <p>(3 hours funded)</p>	<p>Includes 3 hours funding per session Please note this covers the cost of childcare only</p>	<p>Plus, an additional fee of £22</p> <p>Additional Charge is broken down as follows: £13 for 2 additional hours; £6.00 for hot cooked lunch, £3.00 for breakfast, mid-morning snack and all drinks.</p>
<p>AFTERNOON SESSION – 1pm to 6pm</p> <p>(3 hours funded)</p>	<p>Includes 3 hours funding per session Please note this covers the cost of childcare only</p>	<p>Plus, an additional fee of £20</p> <p>Additional Charge is broken down as follows: £13 for 2 additional hours, £7 afternoon snack, tea and all drinks.</p>

Stretched Funding – 15 Hours (Universal Entitlement) 570 hours a year

The universal entitlement can be stretched over 48 weeks of the year. The funding for Universal Funded Childcare equates to 12 hours per week.

(Please note 12 hours a week totals 576 hours per year of which 570 would be funded, 6 hours would be chargeable in the 48th week)

Stretched Funding – 30 Hours (Extended Entitlement) 1140 hours a year

The extended entitlement of 30 Funded Childcare hours can be stretched over 48 weeks of the year. The funding for Extended Funded Childcare equates to 24 hours per week.

(Please note 24 hours a week totals 1152 hours per year of which 1140 would be funded, 12 hours would be chargeable in the 48th week)

Ringle Rainbow can only offer a limited number of FEE fully funded childcare places in-line with our pattern of delivery. The decision on the number of spaces will be at the discretion of the Nursery Manager. When exercising this discretion the following circumstances will be taken into consideration:

- Receipt (current or previous) of 2-year-old Funded Childcare.
- Receipt (current or previous) of EYPP.
- Receipt (current or previous) of means tested benefit.
- Any other extenuating circumstances.



At Ringle Rainbow Nursery the FEE and extended entitlement hours are offered in the following formats. Children wishing to attend for the duration of free entitlement of 15 hours only can do so between 2.30pm and 5.30pm Monday to Friday term time only, and for 30 hours only from 8am –11am and 2.30pm –5.30pm, Monday to Friday, subject to termly availability.

On occasion different fully funded hours will be offered at the managers discretion and will be reviewed on a termly basis.

The registration Fee of £20 will also be waived for those accessing funded hours only.

For more information, please visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk If you would like further clarification on any of the points above, please speak with the Nursery Manager.

On 15th March 2023, the Government announced plans to increase access to funded childcare hours to include younger children. The phased introduction of this plan begins in April 2024 through to September 2025:

- From April 2024, children aged two to receive 15 hours of funded childcare
- As of September 2024, children aged nine months also to have access to the 15 hours of funded childcare
- By September 2025, all eligible children aged from 9 months to school age to receive 30 hours of funded childcare

More details will be included here as and when available.