

## **Early Years Funding (also known as Free Education Funding/ 3and 4 Year Old Funding)**

### **Background**

Children over three are eligible to claim the Early Years Funding from Swindon Borough Council. Nursery funding is based on the traditional three-term year with Autumn, Spring and Summer terms and this grant can be claimed in the term after your child has turned three. The free entitlement is for 570 hours per year over a minimum of 38 weeks. This equates to 38 weeks term-time funding at 15 hours per week. Any additional care you require (e.g. additional sessions or during school holidays) will be charged at the current rate.

From September 2010, the Government are looking to make this Early Years Funding more flexible to meet the needs of parents. Matching this is a commitment from nurseries to be as flexible as possible within operational constraints.

Parents of eligible children will need to complete a Parents Declaration Contract at the start of each traditional term, stating how you would like to use your Early Years Funding. Any parents who wish to increase their use of Early Years Funding up to the maximum 15 hours part way through a term will need to meet the cost in full until the next claim period. Early Years Funding does not include the cost of meals and/or snacks but clients are able to provide a healthy packed alternative for these sessions if they wish. Information about the contents of a healthy lunchbox may be found on the North Star Nursery website at [www.northstarnursery.co.uk/policies\\_forms.htm](http://www.northstarnursery.co.uk/policies_forms.htm).

### **North Star Nursery**

In implementing the new funding arrangements, the Nursery Management Committee have tried to be as flexible as possible but have had to balance this with the need to run a viable Nursery. It is possible to split your early years funding with more than one provider.

We will be operating an “opt-out” system for managing meals during Early Years Funded sessions. Meals served during sessions covered by Early Years Funding will be charged at the following rates: £1.95 for a cooked lunch, £1.50 for high tea and 40p for snack. Parents wishing to “opt-out” of nursery meals for these sessions will need to do so using the form supplied by nursery at the start of each term so that we can manage our food-buying accordingly. Please note that there will be no reduction in the fees for other sessions paid for by the client in which all meals and snacks are included in the session rate.

We will be offering the following options for parents wishing to use all or part of their Early Years entitlement with us:

- Whole days can be claimed at a rate of 9.75 hours (8-5.45pm). Meals and snacks can be provided at a maximum cost of £3.85 per day.
- Full Morning sessions (8am-1pm) at a rate of 5 hours funding per day. A snack and a cooked meal can be provided at a cost of £2.35 per day.
- Afternoons (1-5.45pm) at a rate of 4.75hr of funding per day. Meals can be provided at £1.50 per day.

Some worked examples at the end of this document illustrate how this could be applied.

Our ability to accommodate other patterns of funding is minimal but the nursery management committee will consider exceptional cases on a term by term basis at the start of each term.

You may notice your invoices fluctuate according to the number of Early Years Funded sessions per month and the meals that you have chosen to pay for. You are advised to check your invoices carefully and discuss any queries or concerns about Early Education Funding with Julie/Sharon/Nicky.

### **Worked examples:**

1. Josie attends North Star Nursery full time. Her parents opt to use her Early Years funding for 3x5hr morning sessions (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) and to pay nursery for meals and snacks supplied.

Josie's parents must pay for, 3xafternoons (Mon-Wed), 2xwhole days (Thurs and Fri) plus 3 x cooked lunch & snack.

2. Andrew attends North Star Nursery 3 days per week and playgroup 2 mornings per week. His parents could opt to use 6 hours of early years funding at playgroup. However, this would leave 9 hours funding which could not be easily accommodated by North Star Nursery. It would be more effective for Andrew's parents to claim 3x5hr morning sessions at North Star Nursery. They decide to provide a healthy packed lunch and snack for his mornings at nursery.

Andrew's parents would then need to pay North Star Nursery for 3xafternoon sessions.

3. Paul attends North Star Nursery for one whole day per week. His parents use 9.75 hours of funding and opt to pay for meals. His parents pay £3.85 for the meals and snack.

## Early Years Funded Sessions- Parents Meals Declaration

North Star Nursery operates an “opt-out” system for meals and snacks provided during early years funded sessions. If you do not return this form we will assume that you require North Star Nursery to provide meals and snacks for your child during Early Years funded sessions and will invoice you for these monthly. For all other sessions that you pay for meals and snacks are included in the session rate.

### Term (please circle/delete):

Autumn 2010

Spring 2011

Summer 2011

### Early Years Funded Sessions at North Star Nursery:

For each Early Years Funded session only, please indicate whether you will be requiring North Star Nursery to provide a snack/meal (yes) or whether you will be bringing a healthy packed alternative (no).

	Morning			Afternoon	
	Early years funded session (please tick)	Snack required (Y/N)	Cooked lunch required (y/n)	Early years funded session (please tick)	High tea required (Y/N)
<b>Monday</b>					
<b>Tuesday</b>					
<b>Wednesday</b>					
<b>Thursday</b>					
<b>Friday</b>					

I understand that North Star Nursery will provide meals and snacks as indicated above for Early Years Funded sessions and that I am required to pay for these at the following rates:

Cooked lunch £1.95, High tea £1.50, Snack 40p.

Signed.....(Parent/carer)

Date.....