

Almond Bud Day Nursery

Early Years Funding Guide

A simple guide on how to access government funding at Almond Bud (May 2026)





Simplifying Funding

Navigating early years support schemes can be complex, but understanding them can make a significant difference in reducing the overall cost of nursery care.

Our Early Years Funding Guide is designed to simplify this process, helping you understand your options and choose what best suits your family's needs.

For additional details on Government childcare support, visit [Best Start in Life](#).



What Funding is Available?

Government funding helps families access high-quality early education and childcare. Depending on your child's age and family circumstances, you may be entitled to **15 or 30 hours** of funded childcare during term time.



WORKING PARENTS

30 Hours Funded Childcare

For working parents of children aged **9 months and over**.

Eligible working parents can access up to **30 hours per week** during the funded term, from the term after their child turns 9 months old.



ALL FAMILIES

15 Hours Funded Childcare

Available for **all children aged 3 and over**, and some 2-year-olds.

Some children aged 2 may also be eligible depending on their family's circumstances.

Who is Eligible?

The expansion of 15 and 30 hours is aimed at **working families**. To qualify, you and any partner must each expect to earn at least **£167 per week** on average.

On Leave or Unable to Work

Maternity, paternity, adoption leave, disability, or caring responsibilities — you may still be eligible.

High Earners Excluded

If you or your partner individually earn **£100,000+** per year, you do not meet the working family definition.

Not a Working Family?

Your child is still entitled to **15 hours** from the funded term after they turn 3.

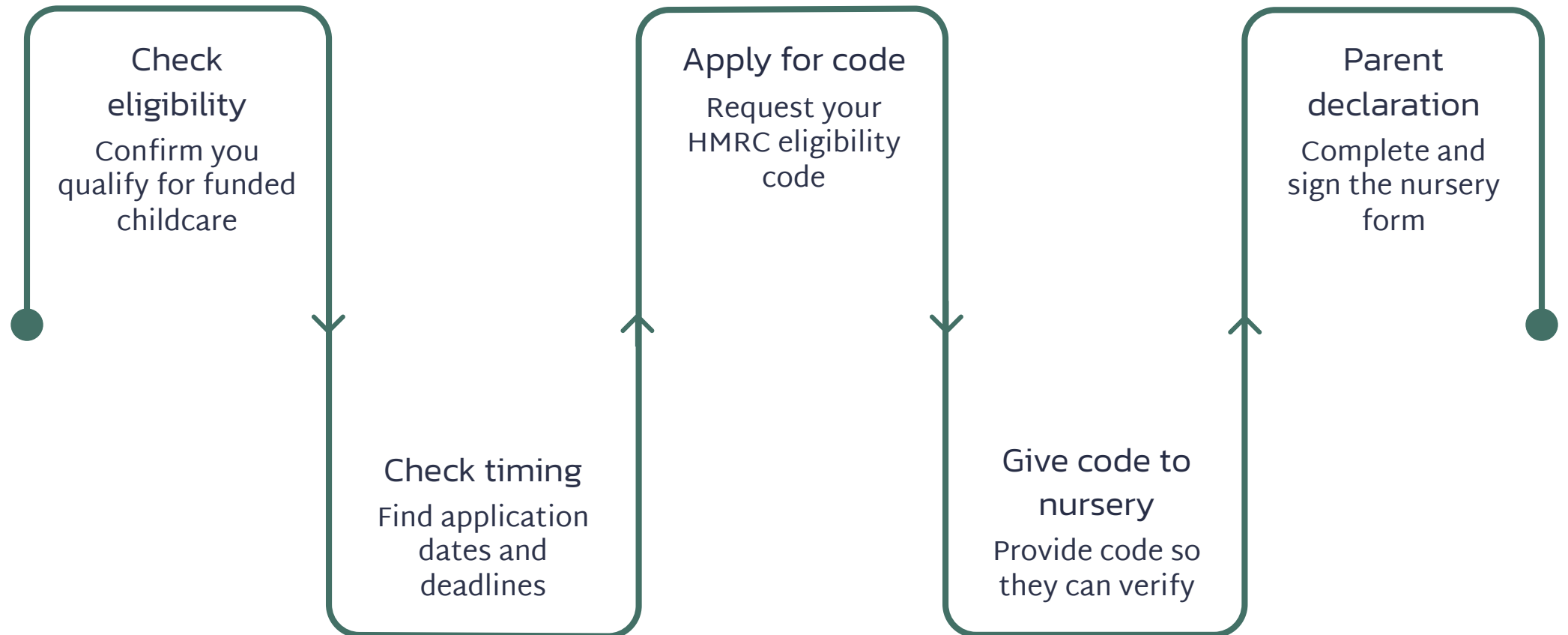
Other Government Support

Families already receiving other government support may be eligible for **15 hours from age 2**.



How to Apply

You will need a valid eligibility code from HMRC to claim 15 or 30 hours. *Steps 3 & 4 are not required if claiming Universal Entitlement (15 hours for children over 3) only.*





Stretched Funding

Government funding covers 38 weeks of term time – **570 hours/year** for 15 hours, or **1,140 hours/year** for 30 hours.

At Almond Bud, we **stretch these hours across the full year** (50 weeks), so your bills stay consistent even outside term time:

15 Hours

≈ 11.4 hrs/week

30 Hours

≈ 22.8 hrs/week



Combine Your Savings

Funded hours are offered within our regular session times, providing convenience and continuity for working parents.

15 Hours Funding

Save approx. **£3,000/year** per child

30 Hours Funding

Save approx. **£6,000/year** per child

Tax-Free Childcare

Save up to an additional **£2,000/year** per child. Apply [here](#).

Extracurriculars, Meals & Inclusive Charges

Government funding covers EYFS delivery but **does not cover** meals, health & hygiene consumables, or extracurricular activities. At Almond Bud, we apply modest daily charges for these, reflecting our commitment to every child's development and wellbeing.

- ❑ Participation in our integrated offering is **not** a condition for accessing a funded place. Speak with the nursery manager to discuss your options.



Our Extracurricular Programme

Delivered by our specially trained nursery teams, integrated throughout the nursery week and tailored to each child's needs and interests.



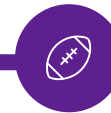
Community Trips

Fire stations, farms, libraries and local community explorations.



Cookery

Develops language, maths, and an understanding of food – all while creating something delicious.



Sports

Fun, inclusive sessions building confidence, coordination, teamwork, and resilience.



Arts-enabled STEM

Dance, sculpture, music, dramatic play, and science – fuelled by natural curiosity.

Our Fully Integrated Service Package

→ Enriched EYFS Delivery

Learning walks, specialist visitors (music, sports), celebrations and festivals.

→ Events & Milestones

Christmas party, graduation ceremony, parent evenings, and detailed electronic diary with instant messaging.

→ All-Inclusive Care

Meals, snacks, medicine administration, wipes, sunscreen, and enhanced staff ratios.

→ Specialist Training

Autism, Early Talk Boost, Building Babies' Brains, Sensory Regulation, and Forest School (older toddlers & pre-school).



Transparent Fees: Option A — Full Day

Fully integrated service. Funding spread over **50 weeks**, fees annualised over 12 months. No discounts for non-attendance due to illness or holidays. Prices effective **1 April 2026**.

Baby Buds (3 months – 2 years)

| Days/week | Full Price | 30 hrs funding |
|-----------|------------|----------------|
| 5 | £1,844 | £1,174.71 |
| 4 | £1,474 | £805.96 |
| 3 | £1,106 | £437.21 |
| 2* | £738 | £271 |

Transparent Fees: Little & Almond Buds

Prices effective **1 April 2026**. *2-day families eligible for 30 hrs can access up to 20 funded hours/week (max 10 hrs/day).

Little Buds (2–3 years)

| Days | Full Price | 15 hrs | 30 hrs |
|------|------------|--------|--------|
| 5 | £1,802 | £1,494 | £1,150 |
| 4 | £1,442 | £1,132 | £790 |
| 3 | £1,081 | £772 | £430 |
| 2* | £720 | £512 | £233 |

Almond Buds (3–4 years)

| Days | Full Price | 15 hrs | 30 hrs |
|------|------------|--------|-----------|
| 5 | £1,708.33 | £1,370 | £1,092.26 |
| 4 | £1,366.67 | £1,028 | £751 |
| 3 | £1,025.00 | £686 | £410 |
| 2* | £683.33 | £475 | £216.83 |

Transparent Fees: Session Rates

For children aged 3 months – 4 years. Prices effective **1 April 2026**.

AM Sessions

| Sessions | Full Price | 15 hrs | 30 hrs |
|----------|------------|--------|--------|
| 5 | £949 | £647 | £347 |
| 4 | £758 | £458 | — |
| 3 | £570 | £268 | — |
| 2 | £380 | £79 | — |

PM Sessions

| Sessions | Full Price | 15 hrs | 30 hrs |
|----------|------------|---------|--------|
| 5 | £928 | £607 | £288 |
| 4 | £742 | £422.17 | — |
| 3 | £556 | £238 | — |
| 2 | £370 | — | — |

Option B — Term Time: Fully Integrated

Funded hours only, term time. Includes everything in our fully integrated service package.

| Booking Pattern | £ Per Session | Weekly Funded Hours |
|---|---------------|---------------------|
| 5-hour session (8:00–13:00 / 13:00–18:00) | £7.50 | 15 |
| 7.5-hour session (9:00–16:30) | £10.75 | 30 |
| 10-hour session (8:00–18:00) | £12.00 | 30 |



Option C – Term Time: Basic Provision

15 or 30 hours per week over 38 weeks.
No charge.

Session hours: 12:30pm – 6:30pm (we reserve the right to adjust times to suit our business model).

- ☐ **Meals charges apply:** Full Day £7.00 | Half Day £5.00.
Government funding does not cover snacks, meals, consumables, extracurriculars, or trips. Our enhanced EYFS package including food is available under Option B.

Opting Out of the Integrated Service

Should parents decide to opt out, please note the following:

No Mix & Match

We cannot offer a partial opt-out or individual elements on an ad hoc basis.

Own Food

Parents must provide their own food in line with our packed lunch guidelines.

Own Consumables

Parents must supply their own non-food consumables (e.g. wipes, sunscreen).

No Additional Activities

Children will not participate in extracurricular activities or specialist teaching sessions.

Key Information

Opening Hours

Monday – Friday, 7:00am – 6:30pm, all year round (except bank holidays and the 5 non-bank holiday days between Christmas and New Year).

Fees & Reviews

Fees effective **1 April 2026**, typically reviewed annually in line with our T&Cs.

Registration & Deposit

Non-refundable registration fee of **£40** to reserve a place, plus a deposit of up to **£220**.



We Are Here To Help

If you have any questions about funding, fees, or which option is right for your family, please don't hesitate to speak with our nursery manager.

For further details on Government childcare support, visit [Best Start in Life](#).

