



Funding & Other Charges Explained

For full guidance on funding,
and tax-free childcare, and how it works,
please visit [beststartinlife.gov.uk](https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk)

Any questions please reach out to us on:
daynursery@delaceynurseries.co.uk or 020 8571 7328





Overview

The government funding is offered for 38 weeks per year (not 52) and at de Lacey's we are delighted to offer you all of the funding streams currently available.

Unfortunately, long term under-funding of these schemes has been a continuous political problem ever since the first government introduced childcare funding more than 15 years ago. What funding offers is a great saving to parents but, despite how it is advertised, does not cover the true cost of a rich curriculum full of learning opportunities and experiences.

Although we are required to tell you that the government funded hours are 'free' it is much more useful to view them as a subsidy, which is what they are in reality.

At de Lacey's we want to continue offering funded places, which is why we have currently opted in to the scheme. Many nurseries are choosing to stop offering funded places because the government funding does not cover the true cost of quality early years education. However, it is only possible for us to continue offering the funding if parents understand why we make a Consumables Charge per hour and choose to 'Opt In' to continue to pay it. We, like all nurseries, offer funding at a cost to ourselves, as it costs a huge amount of money to administer with no financial benefit to us. However, because it is a significant financial benefit to our families, we have taken the decision to continue accepting it.

At de Lacey's we always want to be clear and transparent regarding the funding and what we offer over and above what the government pay for the delivery of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

We have a very clear vision of the quality of childcare that we want to offer you and your child, and we hope that you believe in this vision and are as keen as we are to make it a reality.

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Your Funding Choices

'Opt in' to paying Additional Services/Consumables Charges

What do de Lacey's offer over and above your funding?

We provide high quality childcare, and enriched environments throughout our enhanced provisions, ensuring your child has the best early years experience.

What does this include over and above basic provision?

For your child

Activities

- One-to-one Montessori teaching sessions
- Forest School sessions
- 'Ready Steady School' School Readiness programme (including extra resourcing)
- External teacher led Yoga (with London Aquarian Yoga)
- Additional resources above and beyond EYFS requirements
- Enrichment programmes eg such as Millie's Mark, Let's Talk Together, Healthy Early Years Settings and #JustQuality accredited
- Graduation – includes ceremony, party, graduation gift and certificate
- Celebration of festivals above and beyond EYFS requirements such as Halloween, Chinese New Year, Diwali, Eid etc. This includes resources, crafts and foods to provide a diverse and rich experience for our children
- Gardening sessions including growing fruit and vegetables
- Cooking and baking
- Dedicated Sendco's in each setting including individual resources, tools and techniques
- Christmas party including a visit from Santa and a gift
- And of course, a fully bespoke and highly individualised Montessori teaching programme

Food

- Unlimited breakfast
- A mid morning snack, made up of fruits or vegetables
- A 2 course hot homecooked fresh vegetarian lunch
- An afternoon snack
- Afternoon tea
- Hot drinks and milk
- Fruit is available throughout the day
- Party and Event food (such as Christmas/ Diwali/Eid, Grandparents Afternoon, etc)
- Cooking sessions for children
- Almost no processed foods at all, and organic milk
- Allergies are catered for and managed safely
- Food preferences are catered for

Consumables

- Wipes
- Children's paracetamol
- Spare clothes, nappies and outdoor wear

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For our Families

- Free settling in sessions
- Welcome goody bags
- Life event, book, and physical literacy home 'borrow bags'
- EYLog
 - Care diary
 - Bespoke observations and photos
- Parents evening
- Family days including Grandparents day, summer events and open days, Sports Day and Graduation, Christmas Show
- Progress meetings
- Choice of days (subject to availability).
Booking days and patterns set and guaranteed
- Additional staff training above and beyond requirements eg ALL staff 1st aid and safeguarding trained, curriculum training and forest school
- Staffing above government ratios
- Priority on change of booking patterns
- Sibling priority
- Gifts and treats throughout the year, such as a Christmas/Easter/Valentines etc gift from your child to you
- Parent Workshops such as 1st Aid, sleep expert, dietician and behaviour management

As we are keen for you to Opt In, we are offering you the full service package at a discounted rate, and without any administration charge.

'Opt out' of Paying Additional Service/Consumable Charges

You have the option to opt out of paying additional service and consumables fees on your funded hours. Here is what you will receive:

What your government funding covers:

- Basic provision for the delivery of the EYFS
- Staffing levels that meet minimum government staffing ratios
- Basic resources and care

If you choose to opt out, you must let us know when applying for a place, as we will always assume that you are willing to pay our charges if you do not specifically let us know.

Your child will receive their funded hours at no extra cost.

Unfortunately, children's days may alter termly and are subject to availability. If we have a high amount of staff absence your child may not be able to attend if we are not ratio compliant. We will discuss with you how we can accommodate your child's needs and schedule their funded hours based on our availability. Please also refer to our food policy as your child will not be able to have any food provided by the nursery.

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What Next?

Please apply for your funding in plenty of time via the Best Start In life website, let us know your codes and we will do the rest (though it remains your responsibility to ensure your codes regularly renewed). We hope that our parents see the value of our additional services/consumables charge so that we can continue to operate as we have always done, with offering top quality childcare and an enhanced provision, peppered with love. If you wish to 'opt out' please email our dedicated accounts team who will further advise you on availability tom@delaceynurseries.co.uk

We look forward to continuing to deliver a wonderful experience for your children!

Food When you 'Opt Out'

- The food we offer at nursery is very important to us and supplying high quality healthy food is a vital part of our ethos, therefore we will be imposing very strict guidance on foods which are suitable to be brought into nursery.
- In addition, we are subject to strict legal rules regarding both Food Hygiene, allergens and minimising the risk of choking, which we will need to also impose on anyone bringing outside food into the nursery for the health and safety of all children and staff.
- Funded only children are not eligible to have any food provided by us at nursery (unless they pay our daily Service Fee).
- Food brought into nursery must strictly adhere to our food policy due to allergies within the nursery and our requirements under the food hygiene regulations.
- Please note that we are nut free and healthy eating setting.
- Lunch boxes cannot be stored due to environmental health regulations.
- Lunch boxes must be bought in at 11am by parents and afternoon tea at 3pm.
- All food must be in original packaging clearly stating the ingredients and must be sealed in shop bought packaging.
- Any fruit and vegetables must be pre-cut in to small pieces that avoid choking risk.
- An ice pack must be in each lunchbox to ensure temperatures stay consistent.
- Exclusion foods that must not be bought in include, but are not limited to, crisps, nuts, nut based products, chocolate, raisins, strawberries, dairy products, egg and any other products that may affect children in the setting with allergies. Please check with the nursery manager for the list of current allergens within the nursery.
- Food cannot be heated at nursery.
- If food brought in isn't in accordance with our policies we will ask you to collect your child at lunchtime.

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Food When you 'Opt Out' Continued...

- Funded only children who do not wish to bring in a lunch box must be collected at 11.30am and returned to nursery at 12.30pm and we will not claim funding for this period
- For children 1 and under we require food and drink to be consumed within 4 hours. If your child does not consume any food or drink within 4 hours you will need to collect your child from nursery.
- Please see our Food Policy for more information and speak to any staff member for further guidance and assistance.

We appreciate that this policy is very strict, however it needs to be in order for us to meet our various legal duties to keep children safe and healthy. Please also bare in mind the issues caused by one child having different food from everyone else.

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