

## Funding for Nursery Education Places for Three and Four Year Olds

The following has been written to help you understand more about funding for 3 and 4 year olds.

Sandcastles Nursery is registered and regulated by Ofsted. As a result, all 3 and 4 year olds attending are entitled to 'free' nursery education. We in-turn deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum to all nursery and pre-school children and are inspected by Ofsted. Please ask a member of staff for a full copy of our inspection reports or alternatively they can be viewed on this website and on [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk).

The Local Authority (LA) funding is for 570 hours per year which Sandcastles delivers over a 38 week period thereby allowing for 15 hours of free care per week for 38 weeks a year, as far as possible running in line with school terms. Pre-school sessions run from 9.30am to 12.30am and 1.00pm to 4.00pm. Families are also able to access 6 hours of funding per day if they wish, paying a small cost of £5.15 for lunch and the care over the lunch time period. Families who access more than 15 hours of care per week will automatically have 15 hours of funding deducted from their invoices. Please note: children attending more than one setting can use the 570 hours per year to help fund places in up to 2 settings (not including school placements). We refer you to our terms and conditions with regards to payment. Please note that any additional sessions that are outside the 570 hours of funding will incur a cost which is payable to Sandcastles Nursery by the parent/carer.

The LA sends through contractual forms which have to be completed by us on certain 'headcount' dates. The information they require in determining eligibility is your child's name, address and date of birth. The parents/carers signature is also required and the name of other settings your child attends where funding is also claimed. Children start to receive funding at the start of the term after which they turn 3. For example, a child who turns 3 in the spring term (approx. Jan to March) will be eligible for funding from the start of the summer term (approx. April to July).

<b>A child born on or between</b>	<b>Will become eligible for a free place from</b>
1 April and 31 August	1 September following their third birthday
1 September and 31 December	1 January following their third birthday
1 January and 31 March	1 April following their third birthday

If you decide that you want to increase the number of hours your child is accessing after the headcount date, Sandcastles will charge for the additional sessions as no late claims can be made in this instance. This also prohibits you utilising any unclaimed entitlement with another provider for that term.

In situations where a child attends Sandcastles at the beginning of term but leaves before headcount date, the new provider will be eligible to receive funding for the whole term. In this instance, Sandcastles will charge parents at our published fee rates for the childcare provided until the date of leaving.

We have more information available around the rules governing children moving from one setting to another etc. If you are now more confused than before you were before you started to read, please do come and speak to us. We'll be happy to help.

### Government Funding for 2 year olds

The Government currently funds for 570 hours of care and education a year for any two year old whose family meets the criteria detailed on this fact sheet. Sandcastles Nursery offers this provision over 52 weeks of the year in order to provide continuity for children. This works out as 11 hours each week. The maximum hours that can be offered in one day are 6 hours and the minimum are 3 hours. This care and education has to be delivered by one setting only (a child cannot claim part of it at one nursery and the rest at another). It is expected that the child remains at one setting only for the duration of the funding and does not move to a different setting during that period (unless there is exceptional circumstances) again this is to ensure stability and continuity for the child.

#### The criteria for claiming

Financial Criteria: The family should be in receipt of one or more of the following.

Income Support

Income Related Employment & Support Allowance

Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance

Child Tax Credit, at a rate higher than the family element

Working Tax Credit which includes a disability or a severe disability element

Housing & Council Tax Benefit

Pension Guarantee Credit

Additional Criteria: In addition to the previous criteria, the family must meet one or more of the following:

Family experiencing domestic violence

Family experiencing substance misuse issues

Child is looked after

Child is living in temporary accommodation

Child has developmental or learning delay

Child is experiencing emotional and behavioural problems

Child has speech and language needs, including English as an additional language

Parents with health issues or disabilities

Child has a disability

Child is on the Child Protection Register

Teenage parent

Child is involved with social care

Child is in a family with 3 or more children aged under 5

The family is refugee / asylum seeking

In addition to the above, the family must be registered with a children's centre. If you are not already registered with one, we can help you to do this.

Exceptional circumstances will be assessed. Please do come and talk to us in confidence if your circumstances have not been detailed above but you feel that you are eligible for the funding.