

Free Entitlement Policy

Free early learning gives children the best start in life. The experience of learning and playing with other children in a safe and structured environment will enable children to make a smooth transition to primary school.

Eligibility

To ensure all children have access to Early Years provision, all 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to 15 hours per week of free nursery education for 38 weeks of the year from the term following their third birthday. If you choose to use your funding at Natural Nurture Nursery, please inform us that you wish us to make the application on your behalf. If you wish your child to attend for additional hours you will be charged according to our rates (please see rate card)

Children who are 3 between:	Will become eligible for Government funding from:
1 April and 31 August	September
1 September and 31 December	January
1 January and 31 March	April

What Natural Nurture Nursery Offers

You can choose to use your free entitlement either during term time only (38 weeks per year) or all year round (51 weeks per year)

Weeks per year	Hours per week	Minimum number of days	Total hours across the year
38	15	2	570
51	11	2	561*

* remainder of hours can't be claimed

Term Time only: we will start accepting FE sessions starting September 7th 2015 until July 22nd, 2016. Our terms follow the local school calendar.

All Year Option: this covers 51 weeks a year; the week not included is the week between Christmas and New Year, week commencing December 28th, 2015.

Free Entitlement Session Times

Free Entitlement sessions are available in three hourly slots; funded hours cannot be accrued in a piecemeal way but are offered in specific sessions only. At Natural Nurture you can choose to use funded hours 9am-12pm (one 3 hour session) or 9am-3pm (two sessions of 3 hours, consecutively).

***Due to the statutory constraint of the three-hourly session times, please note that the 'All Year Option' entitlement works out as a total of 9 hours per week, rather than 11 hours. Unfortunately, the remaining hours cannot be claimed.**

Lunch when using Free Entitlement

If using FE over the whole day (9am-3pm) then please note that lunch is not included. If you would like lunch provided, there will be an additional cost of £2.50 a day. Alternatively, please provide a HEALTHY packed lunch. *

*When making your decision about lunches, please keep in mind that the children are often involved in cooking and baking activities using ingredients grown or sourced from the farm. There will be times when for example, the children might have a pasta making activity in the morning using eggs they have collected, and then have that pasta for lunch. Please note that if you decide to send your child with a packed lunch, they may miss opportunities to enjoy food that they have helped to make. Please be reassured that if this is the case, it is always managed sensitively.

Deposit when using Free Entitlement Hours Only

If you are only using Free Entitlement Hours (only 9am – 12pm or 9am – 3pm) then a £50 registration fee is not required.

Farm Gear options when using Free Entitlement Hours Only

If you are only using Free Entitlement Hours (only 9am – 12pm or 9am – 3pm) then there are two options available to you regarding Farm Gear;

- a) You pay a £50 contribution to the Farm Gear that the nursery supplies. As your child grows we will put them in larger sizes with no additional charge.
- b) You bring in your own Farm Gear (see below on what is required) at no cost however due to Environmental Health policies this gear **must stay on the farm at all times.**

Farm Gear is to consist of ;

- a) Waterproof and Windproof Trousers and Coat,
- b) Wellington boots with removable liner
- c) Fleece

This policy was adopted at a meeting of The Natural Nurture Nursery Management Committee held on the 10th February 2016