



BOOMERANG KIDS

FEES & FUNDING POLICY

FEES STATEMENT

In view of our charitable status, we aim to set a fair and realistic fee structure to cover costs, maintain and renew equipment. The fees are reviewed regularly to ensure that our income for the year will be sufficient to meet outgoings, whilst maintaining an appropriate reserve in line with the Charities Commission guidelines and professional advice from a registered accountant. The aim is to have 3 months running costs in reserve.

Funding Available

Child Age	51 week Offering	Eligibility
2 years	15 hours	Families receiving Government support
3 - 4 years	15 hours	All Parents
From 9 months - 4 years	30 hours	Eligible Working Families

Eligibility Criteria

If your child is born between:	They are eligible for funding from:
1 April and 31 August	1 September after reaching 9mths*, second or third birthday until statutory school age of 5
1 September and 31 December	1 January after reaching 9mths*, second or third birthday until statutory school age of 5
1 January and 31 March	1 April after reaching 9mths*, second or third birthday until statutory school age of 5

*Check government eligibility criteria regarding when you return to work

Our Approach to Funding

The government provides funding for 15 or 30 hours per week for only 38 weeks of the year. This equates to:

- **570 hours** per year (15-hour funding)
- **1140 hours** per year (30-hours funding)

Since we operate 51 weeks per year, we stretch this funding across the full year, meaning the weekly funded hours are lower than the stated 15 or 30 hours. We commonly refer to these as the "15 or 30 offer", as shown in the tables within our Pricelist, the actual weekly hours are reduced when stretched and the number of funding hours per day varies by attendance pattern. These adjusted hours are all outlined within the Pricelist.



Eligibility & Code Requirements

Eligibility for working parent entitlement must be confirmed through HMRC, and a valid eligibility code must be provided. Codes must be renewed every three months. Codes can only be applied from the term after your child's qualifying birthday or after they have reached 9 months.

Transparency of Charges

From April 2025, all providers must clearly show how funded hours are delivered and what additional charges apply. To comply with this, we have:

- Broken down our pricing into additional hours, food, consumables, and activity charges
- Sessions that allow you to attend at no cost, in patterns that we plan out for efficiency
- Created flexible fully inclusive offers where parents choose one of our All-Inclusive packages at a favourable rate

If you're not eligible for funding, please speak to us about **private fees** that are available at **competitive daily rates**.

Pricing & Billing Model

Our nursery operates 51 weeks a year, using an equalised billing system:

- Fees paid are split equally across 12 months
- Funded hours are only delivered on days your child is booked to attend
- We do not charge for bank holidays or nursery inset days. Your fees are already discounted to reflect this.
- Charges remain consistent to support predictable monthly payments

Additional Charges Explained

Consumables include but are not limited to:

- tissues
- cotton wool
- nappy sacks
- cooking materials
- science kits
- seasonal resources

Activities include but are not limited to:

- Enrichment sessions (Forest school, specialist visitors, baking, gardening etc.)
- Seasonal events
- Trips out
- Gifts (e.g., for Mother's Day, Father's Day, Easter, Christmas)
- Festivals & celebrations resources e.g. Diwali, Chinese New Year, Christmas
- Gardening & growing



Food

- Breakfast
- Snack
- 2 course hot lunch
- Afternoon snack
- 2 course hot tea
- Food tasting
- Food for celebrations

Are these charges mandatory?

No. You may opt out of some or all additional charges.

However:

- Your child may be excluded from certain activities and resources if you choose not to pay for them.
- The **core Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) provision** will **always** be provided at no cost, ensuring no compromise to their basic education.

Flexible Funding Models

We offer two flexible options:

- **Enhanced All-Inclusive Package:** this bundles all extended hours, meals, consumables, and activities into a best value monthly rate. Ideal for convenience.
- **Build Your Own Package:** Using the tables in the Pricelist, choose from our session times and add daily extras: food, activities, consumables, hours as required. Gives parents full control over costs.

Please note 15/30 hours funding is only offered as a stretched model over 51 weeks.

Attendance Monitoring & Responsible Use of Funds

We are required to ensure that government funding is used as intended and in full:

Where you attend for **funded only** hours:

- You must ensure that you do not arrive late or collect early with any frequency
- Your attendance should not drop below an acceptable level

We may have funded hours removed in these instances and so will apply **additional hourly charges** to you to cover any removal of funding.

Claiming Process

To claim Nursery Education Funding at our nursery you must:

- Complete both the Funding Parental Agreement and the Local Authority Parental Declaration Form
- Refer to our Admissions & Waiting List Policy for guidance on place allocation.

Final Notes

Once your child is eligible for funding, we will support you in accessing the right pattern for your needs. The nursery reserves the right to revise packages in line with government guidance and funding changes.



We aim to be fully transparent, fair, and flexible while supporting high-quality childcare for every family.

Acceptance of a place

Once a place is accepted; a £250 deposit is required to hold you're your place. This will come off your last month's invoice providing there are no outstanding fees. A non-refundable registration fee of £50 is also required in addition to this.

For children taking up government-funded only places without any additional services, the registration fee is waived. However, a refundable deposit of £50 may be required. This deposit will be refunded in line with Local Authority guidelines or within two weeks of leaving the setting, providing there are no outstanding fees.

- Please note parents will be charged for all sickness absences and family holidays but will not be charged for bank holidays, Boomerang Kids inset days or the one week we are closed at Christmas. Your fees are already discounted to reflect this.
- Any additional invoice reprints or additional administration may be charged at a discretionary rate from £1 to £10 per item.

Fees from September 2025

We offer a range of session patterns which have varying fees. For general guidance, and comparison regarding the Early Years Funding, please see below an example of our standard fee costs:

- Standard Full Day (8.00am-6.00pm) - **£78.00**
- Standard School Day (8.00am-3.30pm) - **£63.00**
- Fully Funded standalone funded placement (8.00am-6.00pm) **£0.00**

For details of funded session patterns and early starts - please see our pricelist.

Payment of fees

Parent/carers will be sent an invoice **by email** each month detailing the fees. Please notify us if you have not received this by 25th of the month. Any discrepancies must be reported to finance by the end of the month. Invoices will be billed on an average basis system. We prefer fees to be paid by bank transfer but also accept Childcare Vouchers. Please note that when paying by voucher, if a refund is required (i.e., giving notice) then monies can only be paid back to the issuing voucher company *or* will remain as a credit on the account to be used against future childcare fees. **We do not accept payments by cheque, cash or debit/credit card.**

'Tax Free' Childcare Accounts

Parents will be able to apply for Tax-Free Childcare through the digital childcare service. Working parents of children aged under 12 can use Tax-Free Childcare, through the childcare service account, to pay for registered childcare. The Government will top-up the money that parents pay into the account. For every £8 parents pay in, the Government will add an extra £2. Parents can receive £2,000 per child per year, or £4,000 if disabled.



The eligibility criteria for Tax-Free Childcare are broadly aligned with 30 hours free childcare. The main differences are that Tax-Free Childcare is available for children under 12 and is not available to parents in receipt of tax credits, Universal Credit or childcare vouchers. Parents in receipt of these can choose, as part of the childcare service application, whether they want to keep these benefits and apply for the extended entitlement only or leave these and apply for Tax-Free Childcare as well as the extended entitlement. Boomerang Kids are registered to accept Tax Free Childcare payments through the HMRC online facility. It is still parent's responsibility to ensure payments reach us on time i.e. 1st of every month.

We would also advise parents to ensure they have read all the advice in relation to what is best for them and whether they should move from an existing scheme such as an Employer Voucher Scheme. There is a useful website that we recommend parents go to help them make the right decision for them. We will not be held responsible in any way if your choice results in changes to your eligibility for other benefits or childcare costs support.

All payments are due **in advance** by the first day of the month, as stated on the invoice. It is the responsibility of the Parent/Carer to ensure that their accounts are handled responsibly and do not hold excess credit or debit amounts.

We reserve the right to decline requests for 'extra sessions' if there are outstanding fees owed, or the account is not operated in accordance with the Fees Policy.

Notice Periods

All notice periods for children leaving the setting must be submitted in writing.

- For all children **4 weeks' notice** is required for any changes to sessions (subject to availability) or for parents wishing their children to leave the setting. For invoicing and funding purposes any changes to sessions must start from the beginning of the month, therefore there are occasions where this may be longer than four weeks.
- For children who are leaving us to start Primary School in September, the contract will end on 31st August of the relevant year, and therefore this final notice period is assumed and not required in writing. If you plan to either change your sessions, or leave earlier than the end of August, we ask that this is put in writing by the 31st March of the relevant year. This is to ensure the correct funding is claimed by the April deadline and no refunds to the local authorities or funding shortfalls occur on your account.
- Breakfast & After School Club places are on a 'rolling contract' during primary school term time. We require **4 weeks' notice** to cancel any or all sessions.

Early Years Funded Entitlement (EYFE)

Boomerang Kids works in conjunction with Brighton & Hove City Council to deliver the EYFE funding. Further information can be found on the following website

www.brightonhove.gov.uk/content/children-and-education. All children become eligible for 15 hours of funding the term following their 3rd birthday. For families where both parents are working, eligible children become entitled to 30 hours of EYFE funding the term after they turn 9 months of age.



The invoice system will remain the same and the total number of funded hours used are indicated at nil cost.

Early Years Entitlement (EYFE) can be used flexibly for sessions between the hours of 8.00am – 3.30pm or 8.00am-6.00pm subject to availability. Nil cost government funded only places are available between 8.00am-6.00pm. The days of attendance will be allocated to you based on our availability and place planning. Please see waiting list criteria on our Admissions Policy.

EYFE 'Universal' Entitlement (15 hours)

Boomerang Kids offer the Universal Entitlement to all eligible children. All 3 & 4 year old children will be entitled from the beginning of the term after their 3rd Birthday. We will stretch the claim of 570 hours over 51 weeks @ 11.18 hours per week, or 10 hours per week if attending a fully funded place, enabling children to access their EYFE all year round. Boomerang Kids is closed for 1 week at Christmas and your fees are already discounted to reflect this.

EYFE '30 Hours Funded Childcare'

The 30 Hours Funded Childcare Entitlement is for eligible children of working parents of children from 9 months of age. You will be eligible for this the term after your child turns 9 months of age. We will stretch the claim of 1140 hours over 51 weeks @ 22.34 hours per week, or 20 hours if attending a fully funded place, enabling children to access their EYFE all year round. Boomerang Kids is closed for 1 week at Christmas and your fees are already discounted to reflect this. Please check your eligibility at

www.beststartinlife.gov.uk

Early Years Entitlement for Disadvantaged 2-Year-Olds (15 hours)

Eligible two-year old children are entitled to receive up to 15 hours a week of funded childcare, or 570 hours stretched across the year. Children can attend a fully funded place at 10 hours per week for 51 weeks of the year. To check if you are eligible and make an application, please visit www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/twos. You can also send an email to familyinfo@brighton-hove.gov.uk or call their helpline on 01273 293545.

Please contact the office if you require any further information regarding the Early Years Entitlement at finance@boomerang-kids.co.uk.

If a child changes their sessions, or leaves, and it results in an overpayment of funding, this will have to be paid back to the council. If a child is off for a long period, without informing us of a valid reason, the funding will also have to be paid back to Brighton and Hove Council. We request that parents inform us if their child is going to miss any of their sessions for any reason. Persistent absences will be recorded. The council reserve the right to audit the daily sign-in registers to check children arrive on time so please be punctual.

Any requests for changes to funded sessions (subject to availability) should be notified before the last day of term. *See below.*

- By the 31st August for the Autumn term (1st Sept to 31st Dec)
- By the 31st December for the Spring term (1st Jan- 31st Mar)



- By the 31st March for the Summer term (1st April to 31st Aug)

Boomerang Kids will still consider alterations to sessions, especially if they are urgent and required for changes to work schedules, but please bear in mind that these sessions may be charged at the full cost (no EYE) until a funding claim can be processed for the following term.

Arrears & Non payment

Prompt payment is very important, as we rely on this to keep the setting sustainable. A 5% administration charge will be added to the child's account if payment is not received within the time stipulated. A reminder is also sent. If you are experiencing difficulties in meeting the payment deadline, please contact the office so we can discuss the matter further and possibly suggest a payment plan. We reserve the right to refuse requests for extra sessions if fees are outstanding.

When a payment plan is in place but not adhered to, we are unable to consider any further requests for increases to a child's sessions for a period of 6 months following the completion of the payment plan.

As a last resort, if there is no payment received and no communication or explanation, from Parents/Carers; they may be asked to keep the child at home until the situation has been resolved. If the child is old enough to be in receipt of the EYE funding, they will still be able to access their free entitlement during the dispute period. In this event the procedure will be that a 4-week notice period will be given to the Parent/Carer in writing and can only be revoked if payment is received in full, or a satisfactory payment scheme has been agreed.

Punctuality

Unauthorised late pick-ups will be charged at the full session rate. Late pick-ups after 6pm are charged at £5.00 per 5 minutes. The rate of £5.00 for the first 5 minutes will be charged after 6pm, and a further *£5 per every 5 minutes* thereafter. Please ensure you make every effort to be punctual, not only as a courtesy to our hardworking staff, but to your own child who may well be suffering anxiety as a result.

Financial Hardship

In the event of financial hardship, parents should discuss the matter with the Manager within 14 days of receiving the initial invoice.

We are also able to offer:

- Payment option plans for all Parents/ Carers by prior written arrangements.
- Signposting to other financial help and assistance which may be dependent upon eligibility.



Complaints procedure for Government Funded Entitlement

If you feel that your funded place has not been provided correctly, or the terms of your contract have not been fully explained, then you should initially make your complaint in writing and address it to the nursery manager who will respond and try to resolve your complaint within 28 days.

In the unlikely event that you feel that you do not receive a satisfactory result within this time, you may then contact the Local Authority in which the setting operates (Brighton & Hove) and follow their complaints procedure. It is the responsibility of the local authority to ensure we are delivering our funded hours within the national guidelines. We might not offer our funding in the way you might like to access it, if this is the cause of your complaint the Local Authority can help you in finding a setting that might better suit your needs.

Ofsted are not concerned with issues relating to funding or fee charges that are made for childcare or education. Their responsibilities lie clearly with the regulation and inspection of the welfare and safeguarding requirements and the children's learning and development. Any other complaints about funding should be made directly to the Ombudsman or Department for Education via gov.uk or your local MP.

This Policy will be reviewed annually or before if necessary.

Date last updated	Date to be Reviewed
July 2025	July 2026