



Early Education Funding Policy 2020

3 AND 4 YEARS

Introduction

This policy is written, and EEF delivered, within statutory and local authority guidelines which may be updated from time to time. The funding for 3 and four years at our setting is delivered by supporting both parental access and the future sustainability of the business.

EEF Eligibility

We are unable to offer 2-year-old funding. We **only** offer 3 and 4-year-old funding. This is universal which provides up to 570 hours of **FREE** childcare over 38 weeks a year (term time) from the term after the child's 3rd birthday. See table below:

Child's birthday	When you can claim
1 st January to 31 st March	1 st April following their third birthday or the beginning of the summer school term
1 st April to 31 st August	1 st September following their third birthday or the beginning of the autumn school term
1 st September to 31 st December	1 st January following their third birthday or the beginning of the spring school term

Further information on EEF can be accessed via the local authority website:

www.richmond.gov.uk/childcare_information

Admissions

Our admissions criterion is open and transparent. We do not discriminate against children who fall within the protected characteristics cited in the Equality Act 2010; these are gender, race, disability, religion, or belief and sexual orientation. A registration fees/deposit is payable as additional fees are charged which exceed the funded free hours.

Delivery and chargeable services

The EEF can only be accessed by attending an extended day. Although the EEF will be free at the point of delivery, hours delivered in excess of the funded hours will be charged at a rate to support the sustainability of our quality provision, whilst working within the statutory conditions of the EEF. These will include the extra benefits and services children receive and enjoy at our setting:

- Nutritious and healthy meals
- Higher staff rate ratios than recommended by Ofsted
- Curriculum led by Early Years Professional (degree level)
- All staff qualified to at least level 2/3
- Extra activities, in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)
- Photographic progress records/journals when your child leaves

The full 15 hours' entitlement can be accessed over a minimum of 2 days/week, or it can be split between two childcare providers.

The grant will stretch over 48 weeks/year, excluding the month of August, when fees are payable to ensure a flat monthly charge. The grant is worked out on a termly basis, as per the local authority conditions, these terms will be as follows:

Spring	January to March
Summer	April to July
Autumn	September to December

Please see fee structure for charges. Although shown as deducted for the purpose of financial procedures the funded hours are free and all charges apply to hours in addition to the funded hours and for extra benefits listed. For Summer 2020 the EEF was set at £5.25/hour.

Starters and leavers

All children who are eligible for the EEF have to be on role on the published headcount day otherwise they will be charged normal fees until the following term. When a child leaves after the headcount day the funding available remains with our setting and may be used to accommodate a child whom funding is unavailable. It may also be recalculated.

Parent Declaration

Our setting will provide a declaration for a parent to complete as funding is dependent on it.

Queries and complaints

If a parent has any queries about the EEF please speak to the office or contact early.years@achievingforchildren.org.uk. Any complaints please refer to our complaints policy which can be found in the policy file.