Fees and Funding Guide

At Dots & Tots Day Nursery we are committed to providing exceptional early years experiences within our beautiful, nurturing and inspiring environment. Our carefully designed nursery combines the warmth and familiarity of a home-from-home environment with the highest standards of early education and care.

We believe childhood should be filled with curiosity, wonder and authentic experiences, which is why children are encouraged to learn through real resources, meaningful interactions and hands-on opportunities. From baking and gardening to caring for animals, exploring nature and participating in community experiences, we provide rich opportunities that support children's emotional wellbeing, independence, confidence and love of learning.

Alongside our highly qualified staff team, children and families benefit from a range of support from visiting professionals delivering educational experiences and community enrichment opportunities, as well as professional advice (when referred) to our clinical psychologist throughout the year.

We are proud to invest in creating an environment and curriculum that goes beyond minimum requirements and reflects the high-quality, holistic experiences we believe every child deserves.

Please see a breakdown of our prices below

Session Fees

Session	Times	Fee
Full Day	8:00am–6:00pm	£78
School Day	9:00am–3:00pm	£65
Morning	8:00am–1:00pm	£45
Afternoon	1:30pm–6:00pm	£40
Breakfast Club	7:30am–8:00am	£6.50
Shift Flexibility Fee		£5.00 per session

Please note that Dots & Tots Day Nursery does not charge a registration fee or deposit to secure your child's place.

Nursery fees are payable monthly in advance and are due by the **1st day of each month**.

If payment has not been received by the **3rd day of the month**, we will contact families to discuss the outstanding balance. Where fees remain unpaid, a £25.00 missed payment fee will be added to your account, the nursery reserves the right to temporarily suspend sessions or issue one week's written notice to terminate the place in line with our Terms and Conditions.

The Current Funding Scheme

Dots & Tots Day Nursery is pleased to offer funded childcare places for eligible families, including:

- 15 hours funded childcare for eligible children from the term after they turn 9 months old.
- 30 hours funded childcare for eligible working families from the term after their child turns 9 months old.
- 15 hours funded childcare for eligible two-year-olds.
- Universal 15 hours funded childcare for all three and four-year-olds.

Funding is offered on a stretched basis across 51 weeks of the year, allowing families to benefit from consistent childcare throughout the year rather than term-time only provision.

Eligibility criteria are set by the government, and families are required to apply for and maintain their eligibility through their online childcare account.

Families can check their eligibility and apply for funded childcare through:

Best Start in Life website

Once approved, families will receive an eligibility code which must be provided to the nursery in order for funding to be claimed on their behalf. Please note that you must apply for funding and have an active code before the first date of any funding term. Funding terms start on the 1st January then 1st April and then 1st September each year. Should your code not predate the current funding term this will mean that you may be eligible but your funding allowance will not be accessible until the start of the next active funding term.

Required Documentation

In order for funding claims to be processed successfully, we will require:

- A signed parental funding declaration and parental contract.
- Parent or carer National Insurance numbers where required by the funding scheme.
- Your child's birth certificate or passport as proof of age.
- Additional documentation such as proof of address.

Funding declarations will be completed electronically through our funding loop system. Please note these must be completed before we can claim your funding

Reconfirming Your Eligibility

For working family entitlements, HMRC requires families to reconfirm their eligibility approximately every three months through their childcare account. You will receive a re-confirmation email from your Gov account when you are required to do this.

Failure to reconfirm eligibility by the required deadline will result in funding ending for the following term. Where funding is withdrawn by HMRC, standard nursery fees will apply for any sessions no longer covered by the funded entitlement. Unfortunately, there is no possible way for the council or the setting to back date funding that has lapsed due to code expiration.

Availability of Funded Spaces

Dots & Tots is proud to offer funded childcare places to eligible families and aims to make funded childcare accessible wherever possible.

However, to ensure the long-term sustainability of the nursery and maintain the high-quality provision and enhanced experiences we offer, we reserve the right to limit the number of fully funded-only places available at any one time.

Tax-Free Childcare

Dots & Tots accepts payments through the Government's Tax-Free Childcare scheme.

Payments should be made directly through your Tax-Free Childcare account and allocated to your nursery fees via the Nursery in a Box parent portal, providing you with a simple and convenient way to manage childcare payments.

Funded Sessions

Government funding covers the cost of your child's place and delivery of the EYFS provision. Unfortunately, however, it does not cover any additional extras such as all food/snacks, a home-cooked healthy meal, all other consumables used daily at the setting and the range of additional activities at Dots and Tots that make your child's experience unique. Therefore, families accessing funded childcare sessions are asked to make a voluntary contribution towards all meals and refreshments, enhanced experiences and additional opportunities which sit outside the funded entitlement allowance. Should you not wish to contribute, please speak with the Nursery Manager to discuss. Please see below our consumable charges,

Consumables Charges for Funded Sessions

Session	Food and Nutrition	Additional Activities and Resources	Total Cost per Session
Full Day	£9	£9	£18
School Day	£7	£8	£15
Morning	£7	£6	£13
Afternoon	£2	£5	£7

Where funded hours do not align with a full nursery session, we are able to part-fund sessions. Any remaining hours not covered by funding will be charged at our standard hourly rate.

Meals and Refreshments

- A healthy variety of fresh seasonal fruit during snack times
- A home cooked healthy and nutritious main meal cooked at the setting
- A hearty and fresh afternoon tea *(where applicable to the session attended)*
- Fresh milk and water throughout the day
- Additional snacks for events/ trips away from the setting or activities

Enhanced/ Additional Experiences

- Seasonal celebrations and community events throughout the year with children and their families
- Children, staff and families have access to additional educational sessions delivered by external professionals.

- Pediatric first aid sessions for our children delivered by an external qualified paramedic responder.
  Access to specialist advice and guidance through our partnership with an experienced registered Clinical Psychologist with extensive experience in children's services when required and referred

Included as part of the Dots and Tots experience

At Dots & Tots Day Nursery, we are committed to providing experiences and opportunities that go beyond the statutory requirements without passing additional charges on to families. These enhancements form part of our commitment to delivering exceptional early years education and care and include:

- **Enhanced staffing levels** with ratios that exceed minimum legal requirements wherever possible, allowing for more meaningful interactions, stronger relationships and higher quality learning experiences.
- **Beautifully designed learning environments**, including thoughtfully planned indoor rooms and inspiring outdoor spaces that encourage exploration, independence and curiosity.
- **A fully equipped dedicated sensory room**, providing a calm and inclusive environment to support emotional regulation, sensory exploration, relaxation and individual needs for all our children.
- **Opportunities to care for and learn alongside animals**, helping children to develop empathy, responsibility and an understanding of the natural world.
- **The Dots & Tots Shop**, where children make, grow, harvest and sell produce and eggs that have been made, grown and cultivated within the nursery to their families and wider nursery community.
- **Child-led decision making through the Dots & Tots Shop**, with all proceeds returning directly to the children who decide democratically how the money is spent within their own rooms and learning environments, giving them genuine ownership, responsibility and choice.
- **Rich real-life learning experiences** that help children develop confidence, independence, problem-solving skills and an understanding of the world around them.

These additional opportunities are an important part of what makes Dots & Tots unique and reflect our commitment to providing exceptional experiences that support every child to thrive

Additional information regarding fees

As Dots & Tots Day Nursery operates on an annual place-retention basis, full fees remain payable during periods of absence, including illness and family holidays, as well as during Bank Holidays and the nursery Christmas closure period, in order to retain your child's place and allow us to maintain consistent staffing and high-quality provision throughout the year.

Should you have any further questions on our session prices please get in touch at office@dotsandtots.co.uk or call us on 01604 204142