

Funding and Fees Policy

(EYFS 2025 and Sutton Council Guidance)

Purpose

This policy outlines how funded early education is offered at **Tuba's Play House**.

It ensures transparency and compliance with the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS 2025)** and **Sutton Council** funding agreement.

Funding Entitlements

I offer funded early education places for eligible children in accordance with Sutton Council and Department for Education (DfE) guidance.

Under the EYFS 2025 rollout:

- From **April 2024** – eligible **2-year-olds** can access up to 15 funded hours per week.
- From **September 2024** – eligible **children aged 9 months +** can access up to 15 funded hours per week.
- From **September 2025** – eligible **children aged 9 months to 2 years** may be entitled to up to 30 funded hours per week.
- The **universal 15-hour** and **extended 15-hour** entitlements for **3- and 4-year-olds** remain unchanged.

Eligibility and Application Process

The application process for the new entitlements works the same way as the existing 30-hour codes:

- Families apply for funding via the **Government Childcare Service** before the term starts.
- If eligible, an **11-digit code** is issued, which must be reconfirmed **every 3 months**.
- The code includes a **start date**, **end date**, and **grace period end date**.
- A child cannot start or move settings during the grace period.
- Funded hours begin from the **start of the term following the child's eligible age**.

Families can check eligibility on the **Sutton Parent Portal** or contact the **Sutton Family Information Service** at **020 8770 6000**.

Further information is available from:

<https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/early-education-and-childcare-resource-pack>

Delivery of Funded Hours

- Funded hours are offered **term-time only** in line with Sutton Council guidance.
- The setting is **closed during school holidays**, and no fees are charged for funded-only children during this period.
- Families can request **ad hoc holiday sessions** separately, if available, at the standard hourly rate.

Optional Extras and Transparency

- Funding covers childcare only. Optional charges may apply for meals, snacks, outings, or consumables.
- Families may provide their own food or items to avoid or reduce any optional costs.
- No deposits, top-ups, or additional payments are required as a **condition** of accessing a funded-only place.
- All fees for non-funded services are detailed in the **contract**, not within this policy.

Absences

Funded hours are offered for set days and times during term time.

If a child is absent due to illness, holidays, or other reasons, these hours **cannot be carried forward or replaced**, in line with Sutton Council and DfE funding guidance.

Policy Review

This policy will be **reviewed annually** or sooner if guidance from the **Department for Education (DfE)** or **Sutton Council** changes.