



# Holmhirst Pre-School

## Free Entitlement Funding for 2,3&4yr Olds

### 2yr Old Working Parent Entitlement Funding:

- From April 2024, working parents of 2 year olds can access 15 hours of childcare. You can apply for the 2 year old working childcare entitlement on the government website. The hours are taken over 38 weeks at our Pre School. See [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) for more details.

### Childcare for families of 2 yr olds in receipt of support:

Parents and carers will qualify for this type of childcare support if they meet certain criteria.

Either the family is eligible for:

- income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit, with annual earned income under £15,400 AFTER tax (take-home pay – not including state benefits)
- Working Tax Credit and/or Child Tax Credit, with an annual income under £16,190 before tax (gross earnings)
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- the Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- See [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) for more details.

Or the child:

- is looked after by a local council.
- has a current statement of special education needs (SEN) or an education health and care plan (EHC)
- is receiving Disability Living Allowance
- has left care under a special guardianship order, child arrangements order or adoption order.
- See [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) for more details.

### Tax free Childcare

If you are an eligible working parent or carer and you pay for childcare, you can receive help towards this care. For every £8 you pay for childcare costs, the government will automatically add £2. See [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) for more details.

Some 3 and 4 yr olds can have an extra 15 hours per week (570 hours per year).

- A government application decides who is eligible. See [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) for more details.

Each block session at this Pre School lasts for 3 hrs.

- We offer the option of half or full days which equals 1 or 2 x 3hr sessions per day.
- Children become eligible for the Working Parent Entitlement Funding and Free Early Learning Funding under the government schemes. This means that your Child can access up to 30 hours per week at this, or any other approved Pre-School / Nursery operating this scheme.
- The Pre-School will need to see evidence of the Child's details. Acceptable forms of identification are Birth Certificate or Passport. This should be shown on the Child's first day.
- We require 4 weeks notice of a Child leaving our setting or moving to another provider.
- The first 3 weeks of a Child starting with us and using FEL here will be classed as the 'settling in period'. After that initial 'settling in period', the Child must be using their registered hours.

Most frequently asked Questions:

- **How do I apply for the Working Parent Entitlement Funding?**
  - Parents need to make an application on the Government website. See [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) for more details.
- **How do I apply for the 3&4yr old Free Entitlement Funding?**
  - Your Pre-School / Nursery will apply for the funding on your behalf.
- **Can I split my Funding with another Provider?**
  - Yes, Parents can split the Funding with another provider. You can claim the Free Entitlement adhering to the maximum number of settings defined in the FEL Code of Practice.
- **How much Funding is available?**
  - Funding is available for a maximum of up to 30hrs per week over 38 weeks per academic year. Please refer to [Sheffield.gov.uk](http://Sheffield.gov.uk) for further guidance.
- **Are there any other Charges or Monies to pay?**
  - There are additional charges for Snacks / Consumables / Special events etc. These are collected termly.
- **What if I choose to use all my Free Entitlement Funding elsewhere?**
  - In this case, Parents will be charged for sessions at the Eligible Child Rate in line with our Fees Policy.
  - The current Eligible Child charge is £27 per session from September 2024.
- **What do you have to consider next?**
  - When you become eligible for Free Entitlement Funding how many 3hr sessions would you wish to access? Speak to the Pre-School Manager and let her/him know how you want to use your entitlement.

**If you have any further Questions or Queries about the above information, please speak to the Pre-School Manager**