



Fee's & Admissions Policy (Cont.)

Free Early Education (FEE) – Funded Hours

2 YEAR OLDS

15 Hours Early Learning for 2-Year-Olds Receiving Additional Support

A 2-year-old may be eligible for 15 hours of funded early learning per week for 38 weeks of the year if the family meets the current government additional-support criteria, including certain qualifying benefits:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit, where household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, not including benefit payments
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit

Some families who cannot claim benefits because of their immigration status may also qualify under separate government criteria. Eligibility should be checked through Kent County Council.

A 2-year-old may also qualify if they:

- are looked after by a local authority
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- receive Disability Living Allowance
- have left care under an adoption order, special guardianship order or child arrangements order

Early Learning for 2 Year Olds is available at Ringle Rainbow Nursery where the child meets the current eligibility requirements and a place is available within the nursery's overall capacity and agreed pattern of delivery. Eligibility is confirmed through Kent County Council. Once confirmed eligible, the 15-hour entitlement normally continues until the child becomes eligible for the universal 3- and 4-year-old entitlement.



3-4 YEAR OLDS

Every child is eligible for the universal 15 hours of funded early education from the start of the funding period following their third birthday.

A CHILD BORN ON OR BETWEEN:	Universal 15 Hours Commence From:
1st September - 31st December	Funding period beginning on or after 1 January following their 3rd birthday
1st January - 31st March	Funding period beginning on or after 1 April following their 3rd birthday
1st April - 31st August	Funding period beginning on or after 1 September following their 3rd birthday

FREE EARLY EDUCATION UNIVERSAL ENTITLEMENT - 3 & 4 YEAR OLDS (15 HOURS)

All 3- and 4-year-olds are entitled to 15 funded hours per week for 38 weeks of the year (570 hours annually) from the funding period following their third birthday. Ringle Rainbow Nursery offers funded hours in accordance with its published pattern of delivery. Any optional additional hours, meals, consumables or activities are shown separately from the funded childcare hours.

WORKING PARENTS - 30 HOURS FUNDED CHILDCARE

Nationally, eligible working parents of children aged from 9 months to 4 years may receive up to 30 funded hours per week for 38 weeks of the year. Ringle Rainbow Nursery provides care from age 2, so the working-parent entitlement can be used with us from age 2 where the child and parent meet the eligibility requirements and a place is available.

Parents must apply through the government childcare service and receive an 11-digit eligibility code. The code must be valid before the relevant funding period begins and parents must reconfirm eligibility as required by HMRC. Ringle Rainbow Nursery will validate the code with Kent County Council and will require the eligibility code and the National Insurance number of the parent who made the application. A parental declaration must also be completed for the funded hours claimed with the nursery.



At Ringle Rainbow Nursery, universal and working-parent funded hours are offered within the following session formats. The funded entitlement pays for the funded childcare hours only. Where parents choose to attend for hours beyond their funded allocation, those additional childcare hours are chargeable. Charges for meals, consumables or additional activities are shown separately and are not a condition of accessing a funded-only place; please speak with the Nursery Manager about the funded-only pattern available.

FULL DAY – 8am to 6pm (6 hours funded)	6 funded childcare hours within the session	Additional fee for full session: £38 £28 for 4 additional childcare hours; £10 meals/snacks/drinks. Includes consumables and Forest School where applicable.
MORNING SESSION – 8am to 1pm (3 hours funded)	3 funded childcare hours within the session	Additional fee for full session: £25 £15 for 2 additional childcare hours; £10 meals/snacks/drinks. Includes consumables and Forest School where applicable.
AFTERNOON SESSION – 1pm to 6pm (3 hours funded)	3 funded childcare hours within the session	Additional fee for full session: £23 £15 for 2 additional childcare hours; £8 afternoon tea/snack/drinks. Includes consumables.

Stretched Funding - 15 Hours (Universal Entitlement) - up to 570 funded hours a year

Where agreed with the nursery, the 570-hour universal entitlement may be stretched over 48 weeks. This is equivalent to an average of 11.875 funded hours per week across 48 weeks.

The exact weekly attendance pattern will be agreed with the nursery. Any hours attended above the child's remaining funded entitlement are chargeable at the nursery's published rates.



Stretched Funding - 30 Hours

- up to 1,140 funded hours a year

(Working Parent Entitlement)

Where agreed with the nursery, the 1,140-hour working-parent entitlement may be stretched over 48 weeks. This is equivalent to an average of 23.75 funded hours per week across 48 weeks.

The exact weekly attendance pattern will be agreed with the nursery. Any hours attended above the child's remaining funded entitlement are chargeable at the nursery's published rates.

Ringle Rainbow Nursery offers funded childcare in line with its published pattern of delivery and overall registered capacity.

The £20 registration fee is waived for children accessing funded hours only.

For further information about funded childcare, please speak with the Nursery Manager or refer to the current Kent County Council and government childcare-support guidance. Policy reviewed: 1 September 2026. Next review: 1 September 2027.