



Our guide to funded childcare

Mill Lane Childcare Garndiffaith Nursery

Supporting families to understand funded early education

Choosing the right nursery for your child is an important decision, and understanding childcare funding can often feel complicated. At Mill Lane Childcare Garndiffaith, we believe funding should never be confusing, so we've created this guide to explain the different childcare funding schemes available in Wales and how they work within our nursery.

Whether your child is eligible for Flying Start, The Childcare Offer for Wales, or you use Tax-Free Childcare, our aim is to make the process as straightforward as possible while helping you understand exactly what your funding covers.

We know every family's circumstances are different, so if you are ever unsure about your eligibility or how your funding is applied, our management team will always be happy to help.

Childcare Funding at a Glance

There are several ways families can receive help with childcare costs in Wales.

At Mill Lane Childcare we currently support families through:

- Flying Start funded childcare for eligible two-year-olds.
- The Childcare Offer for Wales for eligible working families with three and four-year-olds.
- Tax-Free Childcare.
- Employer childcare payment schemes where accepted.

Funding is designed to contribute towards the cost of your child's early education and childcare, helping more families access high-quality childcare while supporting children to learn, develop and thrive.

Flying Start Childcare

Supporting children from age two

Flying Start is a Welsh Government programme that provides funded childcare to eligible two-year-olds living within designated Flying Start areas.

Unlike other childcare funding, eligibility is based primarily on where you live. Families do not need to be working to qualify if they live within an eligible postcode.

At Mill Lane Childcare Garndiffaith, we are proud to deliver Flying Start childcare in partnership with **Torfaen County Borough Council**, providing children with high-quality early learning experiences in a nurturing environment.

Flying Start sessions are designed to support children's learning, communication, confidence and social development before they move into preschool education.

Funding usually begins from the term after your child's second birthday.

Who is eligible?

Your child may be eligible if:

- You live within an approved Flying Start catchment area.
- Your child has reached the eligible age.
- Your place has been confirmed through Torfaen Flying Start.

If you are unsure whether your home address falls within the Flying Start area, our team can help direct you to the appropriate service.

How do I access Flying Start?

Once your child becomes eligible, the Flying Start team will contact you to discuss your options.

When you have chosen Mill Lane Childcare as your preferred provider, we will work directly with Torfaen Council to arrange your funded sessions.

There is very little paperwork for families to complete, and we will guide you through every stage of the process.

The Childcare Offer for Wales

Supporting eligible working families

The Childcare Offer for Wales helps eligible working families with the cost of childcare for three and four-year-old children.

The offer provides up to **30 hours of funded early education and childcare each week during term time**, made up of early education hours and funded childcare hours.

Families who choose year-round childcare may have these hours stretched across the year, allowing funding to contribute towards childcare costs over more weeks rather than only during school terms.

Am I eligible?

You may qualify if:

- Your child is aged three or four.
- You live in Wales.
- You meet the Welsh Government's eligibility criteria.
- You (and your partner, where applicable) meet the required working criteria.

Applications are made directly through the Welsh Government Childcare Offer website.

Once your application has been approved, we will claim the funding on your behalf.

When should I apply?

Applications should normally be submitted during the school term before you wish your child to begin accessing funded childcare.

Applying early helps ensure funding is in place before your child's start date and avoids unnecessary delays.

Our management team is always happy to help families complete the process if needed.

How do I apply for funded childcare?

Flying Start

1. Check whether your address falls within a Flying Start area.
2. Speak with the Torfaen Flying Start Team.
3. Choose Mill Lane Childcare as your childcare provider.
4. Complete any required paperwork.
5. Begin your funded sessions.

Childcare Offer for Wales

1. Check your eligibility online.
2. Submit your application.
3. Receive confirmation from the Welsh Government.
4. Share your eligibility details with us.
5. Complete our Parent Declaration.
6. We claim the funding directly from the Local Authority.

Tax-Free Childcare

Many working families can also receive support through HM Revenue & Customs' Tax-Free Childcare scheme.

For every £8 you pay into your childcare account, the Government adds £2, up to the maximum annual contribution.

Mill Lane Childcare accepts Tax-Free Childcare payments and, through Tapestry Pay, parents can link their childcare account directly, making payments quicker and reducing administration.

Tax-Free Childcare can often be used alongside other funding schemes where eligible.

Meals, Consumables and Enrichment Charges

Government funding contributes towards the cost of delivering childcare and early education but does not fully cover the actual cost of providing high-quality childcare.

Funding is intended to support your child's education and care, however it does not include many of the day-to-day items and experiences that make nursery enjoyable, comfortable and enriching.

At Mill Lane Childcare, funded hours are deducted directly from your invoice, with any remaining charges reflecting the difference between Welsh Government funding and the actual cost of delivering our service.

What funding covers

Funding contributes towards:

- Qualified practitioners.
- Required staffing ratios.
- Delivery of the Curriculum for Wales.
- Daily learning experiences.
- Indoor and outdoor learning.
- Continuous provision.
- Care, supervision and safeguarding.

What funding does not cover

Funding does not include many of the additional items your child enjoys each day, including:

Food and drink

Breakfast, lunch, tea, healthy snacks and drinks.

Daily care items

Nappies, wipes, creams, bedding, toiletries and sun cream.

Learning resources

Learning journals, craft materials, sensory resources, loose parts play and replacement resources.

Enrichment

Forest School sessions, cooking activities, seasonal celebrations, visitors, outings, community experiences and enhanced learning opportunities.

These additional experiences help us provide children with a rich, exciting and memorable nursery experience every day.

Transparency for Families

We believe families should always understand exactly how their childcare funding is used.

Our fee structure has been designed to be as transparent as possible, with funding applied directly to your invoice and any remaining charges clearly explained.

If you would like a breakdown of how your funding has been calculated, our management team will always be happy to talk you through it.