



Funding

Brochure





Your Family Guide To Childcare Funding

Making childcare a little easier to understand

At Little Flyers, we know that childcare is a big part of family life.

We also know that understanding funding, funded hours and the different support available can sometimes feel a little confusing.

So, we've put together this guide to help you understand what support may be available to your family in Scotland and, importantly, how you can make it work alongside your child's Little Flyers place.

Whether your child is already part of our Little Flyers family or you're thinking about joining us, we are here to help.

Because choosing childcare isn't just about hours and costs.

It's about finding somewhere your child feels safe, happy, loved and confident.

And if your child is already settled and thriving with us, becoming eligible for funded ELC doesn't mean you have to start again somewhere else.

Your funded hours can be part of your child's Little Flyers journey too.





Tax-Free Childcare

Tax-Free Childcare is another way eligible working families can get help with their childcare costs.

For every £8 you pay into your Tax-Free Childcare account, the government adds £2. You could receive up to £2,000 per child per year, or up to £4,000 for a disabled child.

Universal Credit Childcare Costs

If you receive Universal Credit and meet the eligibility requirements, you may be able to claim back up to 85% of your eligible childcare costs.

From April 2026, the maximum is:

£1,071.09 per assessment period for one child

or

£1,836.16 for two or more children.

The important bit?

You may have more than one option available to you, depending on your circumstances.

1,140 Funded Hours

Your Child's Funded ELC

In Scotland, all 3 and 4-year-olds are entitled to up to 1,140 hours of funded Early Learning and Childcare each year.

Some 2-year-olds can also be eligible.

Funded ELC is designed to support children's learning, development and wellbeing through play, relationships and meaningful experiences.

At Little Flyers, this fits naturally with what we already do every day.

- Learning through play.
- Building friendships.
- Exploring the world around us.
- Growing confidence and independence.
- Developing skills for the next big adventure - school.





Can I Use My Funded Hours At Little Flyers?

YES!

If your child is eligible for funded ELC and Little Flyers is an approved funded provider in your local authority area, you can use your funded hours with us, subject to the arrangements available at your setting.

And this is something we really want our families to know:

Your child becoming eligible for funded hours doesn't mean they need to leave Little Flyers.

If they are already happy, settled and comfortable with us, their funded hours can simply become another part of their Little Flyers week.

They can continue to enjoy:

- The practitioners they know
- Their friendships
- Their familiar environment
- Their routines
- Our indoor and outdoor learning
- Our experiences and activities
- The relationships they have built with our team

For many children, that continuity is really important.



Funding Doesn't Have To Mean Starting Again

We understand that every family needs something slightly different.

You might need:

- Funded hours only
- Funded hours plus additional hours
- Longer days
- Additional days
- Holiday childcare
- A full-year childcare arrangement





Where places are available, we can talk through the options with you and help you find a pattern that works for your family.

You don't have to choose between funding and the childcare you actually need.

Our aim is to make things as simple as possible for you.

Tax-free Childcare

Make Your Childcare Costs Go Further

If you have additional childcare costs outside your funded ELC entitlement, Tax-Free Childcare could help.

For every £8 you pay into your Tax-Free Childcare account, the government adds £2.

You can receive up to:

£2,000 PER CHILD, PER YEAR

or

£4,000 FOR A DISABLED CHILD

Tax-Free Childcare is available to eligible working families, including self-employed parents. There are specific eligibility requirements, including income limits.

Can I Use It At Little Flyers?

Yes!

Little Flyers accepts Tax-Free Childcare payments.

This can be particularly helpful if you use funded ELC with us but need additional childcare around those hours.

For example, your child's funded hours could form part of their normal Little Flyers week, with Tax-Free Childcare helping towards eligible additional childcare costs if you qualify.

One place.

One familiar team.

One less thing to organise.

You can check your eligibility and apply through the UK Government website.





What About Universal Credit?

If you receive Universal Credit, you may be entitled to help with your childcare costs.

Eligible families can claim back up to **85% of qualifying childcare costs**, subject to the scheme's rules and maximum amounts.

From April 2026, the maximum amount that can be reimbursed is:

£1,071.09 for one child

£1,836.16 for two or more children

Tax-Free Childcare and Universal Credit childcare support cannot normally be used at the same time, so it's important to check which option is best for your family.

Our advice?

Always check what you're entitled to.

Your circumstances are unique, and what works for one family may not be right for another.





Why Continue Your Little Flyers Journey?

Because your child already knows us.

Starting a new stage of learning is exciting.

But it can also mean lots of change.

New people.

New surroundings.

New routines.

New friendships.

If your child is already happy and settled at Little Flyers, continuing with us means they can move into their funded ELC experience without having to start all over again.

They already know their room.

They know their practitioners.

They know their friends.

They know where their favourite things are.

And, most importantly, they know they are safe and loved



More Than Just Funded Hours

At Little Flyers, we don't want your child's experience to be defined by how many funded hours they receive.

We want them to have a childhood full of:

CONNECTION

Strong, trusting relationships with the adults around them.

EXPLORATION

Opportunities to investigate, experiment and discover.

PLAY

Time and space to learn through the things children do best.

ADVENTURE

Indoor and outdoor experiences that bring learning to life.





FRIENDSHIPS

Building relationships, confidence and a sense of belonging.

CONFIDENCE

Helping every child become ready for their next big adventure.

Stay Connected With Little Flyers

Your child's day, wherever you are.

We know how important it is to feel connected to your child's nursery life — especially when you're busy working, juggling family life or simply missing them during the day.

That's why we use the Family app to keep our families connected.

Through Famly, you can receive updates about your child's day, including:

- Photos and videos of their experiences
- Learning and development updates
- Mealtimes and daily routines
- Nappy and care updates
- Messages and important information from your nursery team
- Updates about what your child has been learning and exploring

It's a lovely way to see a little bit of your child's world, even when you can't be there.

From their first little steps to getting ready for school..

You'll be able to follow their journey, celebrate their achievements and see all the little moments that make up their time at Little Flyers.

Because being part of your child's nursery journey shouldn't stop when you leave them at the door.

Our Little Flyers Promise

We believe children thrive when they feel:

Loved.

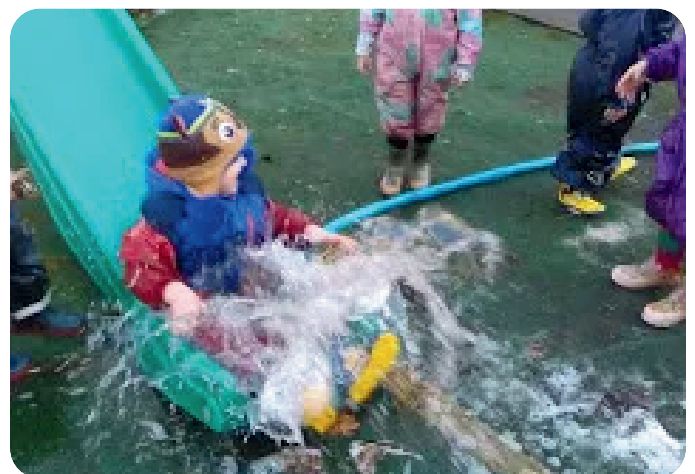
Safe.

Respected.

Listened to.

Included.

Inspired.





That's why our vision is to create a place where children and staff can flourish, feel valued and be inspired.

We want our nurseries to feel like home from home, somewhere children can be themselves, families feel welcome and our teams know your child as an individual.

Staying With Little Flyers

One journey. From those first little steps to school.

Whether your child joined us as a baby, a toddler or just before their funded ELC begins, we would love to continue being part of their journey.

As they grow, their needs change.

Their learning changes.

Their interests change.

But the relationships they've built along the way matter.

That's why we believe in continuity.

Your child can grow with us, build confidence with us and get ready for school with us — while you continue to have a team around you who already knows your family.

Funding is just one part of the picture.

Your child's journey is the bigger picture.

And we'd love to continue that journey with you.

Have Questions?

Please don't worry if you're still not sure how it all works.

Funding can feel complicated, and every family's circumstances are different.

Your Little Flyers Manager is here to help.

Come and have a chat with us about:

- Your child's funded ELC eligibility
- When your funded hours can begin
- How funded hours could fit into your child's week
- Additional childcare hours
- Tax-Free Childcare
- Universal Credit childcare support





- Your child's transition into funded ELC
- Continuing your child's Little Flyers journey

You don't have to work it all out yourself.

We're here to help.



Useful Information

Scottish Government

For information about funded Early Learning and Childcare in Scotland.

MyGov.scot

For information about funded ELC and help with childcare costs.

Parent Club

For practical information and advice for families in Scotland.

GOV.UK – Tax-Free Childcare

To check your eligibility and apply for Tax-Free Childcare.

GOV.UK – Universal Credit Childcare Costs

For information about claiming help with childcare costs through Universal Credit.





Funded Early Learning & Childcare – Scotland

Find out about the Scottish Government's funded ELC offer, including the 1,140 hours available to eligible children and information about how to apply through your local authority.

[Find out about funded ELC – mygov.scot](https://mygov.scot)

Tax-Free Childcare

Check whether you are eligible and apply for a Tax-Free Childcare account. For every £8 you pay in, the government adds £2, up to the relevant annual limit.

[Check Tax-Free Childcare – GOV.UK](https://gov.uk)

Universal Credit – Childcare Costs

If you receive Universal Credit, you may be able to claim help towards your childcare costs. This guidance applies to families in Scotland, England and Wales.

[Universal Credit childcare costs – GOV.UK](https://gov.uk)

****Help with Childcare Costs – **GOV.UK**

A useful starting point if you're not sure which childcare support you may be entitled to.

[Check what help you could get with childcare costs – GOV.UK](https://gov.uk)

Little Flyers

Your child. Your family. Your journey.

We know that choosing childcare is about finding somewhere you can trust.

Somewhere your child feels at home.

Somewhere you feel listened to.

Somewhere you know your child is known, cared for and encouraged to be themselves.

We're proud to be part of so many family journeys - and we'd love to continue being part of yours.

Home From Home.

Ready For The Big World.





West Calder ELC

☎ 01506 873 731

✉ westcalder@littleflyerschildcare.org.uk

🌐 <https://littleflyerschildcare.org.uk/west-calder/>

📍 Little Flyers Nursery & Out of School Care, West Calder 5 Glebe Rd, West Calder EH55 8DF

Broxburn ELC

☎ 01506 854 066

✉ broxburn@littleflyerschildcare.org.uk

🌐 <https://littleflyerschildcare.org.uk/broxburn/>

📍 Little Flyers Nursery 88 W Main St, Uphall, Broxburn EH52 5LQ

Ingliston ELC

☎ 0131 335 3679

✉ Ingliston@littleflyerschildcare.org.uk

🌐 <https://littleflyerschildcare.org.uk/ingliston/>

📍 Little Flyers Nursery, 4 Ingliston Rd, Ingliston, Newbridge EH28 8AU

Winchburgh After School Club

☎ 07518 176781

✉ winchburgh@littleflyerschildcare.org.uk

🌐 <https://littleflyerschildcare.org.uk/winchburgh/>

📍 Little Flyers After School Club, Winchburgh, Craigton Park, Winchburgh, Broxburn EH52 6RW

Ratho After School Club

☎ 07763 029 897

✉ ratho@littleflyerschildcare.org.uk

🌐 <https://littleflyerschildcare.org.uk/ratho/>

📍 Little Flyers Ratho, 1 School Wynd, Ratho, Newbridge EH28 8TT

Livingston ELC

☎ 01506 432 578

✉ livingston@littleflyerschildcare.org.uk

🌐 <https://littleflyerschildcare.org.uk/livingston/>

📍 1 Cedric Rise, Livingston EH54 6JR

