

## **Nursery Education Funding (NEF)**

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All three and four year olds are entitled to a free early education place the term following their third birthday (see below for key dates). The Local Authority makes available free early education places offering 570 hours a year over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year. This equates to 15 hours per week at settings opening during term time only. It becomes available at the beginning of the term following their third birthday until they reach compulsory school age (the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday).

Anyone of eligible age who attends a Bradford early education approved provider (this includes The Villages Pre-School) is eligible to receive funding, even if their residence is outside Bradford or if their parents are not British citizens.

### **Key Dates**

A child born between 1st April and 31st August will be eligible for a free place from the start of the Autumn Term following their 3rd birthday until statutory school age.

A child born between 1st September and 31st December will be eligible for a free place from the start of the Spring Term following their 3rd birthday until statutory school age.

A child born between 1st January and 31st March will be eligible for a free place from the start of the Summer Term following their 3rd birthday until statutory school age.

### **The process**

During the second week of each term, Bradford Council distributes claim forms direct to Pre-School. You need to record personal details such as your address and check that the hours we have stated are correct. Once verified, the monies for your child's sessions that term, are paid directly to Pre-School. We need to evidence that we have checked each child's birth certificate before claiming.

If your child has recently, or is about to turn 3 years old, you may wish to increase their sessions in the following term (when they become eligible), to claim their full entitlement, although this is subject to availability. You can let Jane or Caroline know in advance and if available, we will save additional sessions for you, a half-term in advance.

Please note that if you wish to increase sessions part way through a term, these will need to be paid for, as all claim forms regarding NEF are sent to Bradford Council by the third week of that term and no further payments will be made to Pre-School.