

Fees, Funding & Payment Guide 2026

Thank you for your interest in Stepping Stones Day Nursery. We know that choosing the right nursery – and understanding the fees and funding – is a big decision for families, so this guide provides a clear overview of our sessions, funding and payment options for 2026.

At Stepping Stones, our fees reflect not just access to high-quality environments, meals and resources, but the value of exceptional early years education delivered by skilled, caring professionals. We invest heavily in our team, offering continuous training, recognised qualifications, mentoring and leadership pathways. This ensures the people caring for your child are knowledgeable, confident and committed, creating warm, nurturing relationships and meaningful learning experiences.

As a group, we believe children thrive when the adults around them are supported to grow — which is why staff development, wellbeing and progression sit at the heart of everything we do.

Our Sessions & Day Rates

At Stepping Stones, we offer two core session types, with the choice of 3, 4 or 5 days per week:

- Standard Day: 8.00am – 4.00pm
- Full Day: 8.00am – 5.30pm

Extending Your Day – Early Start & Late Finish

Early Start from **7.30am** and Late Finish up to **6.00pm** are available to support work and family commitments. These premium sessions are charged at **£7** per additional premium session selected.

We also operate tiered daily rates, where 3 days per week is the base rate and 5 days per week is the lowest rate, so families who attend more frequently benefit from a reduced day rate.

Session Type	3 Days	4 Days	5 Days
Standard Day (8.00am–4.00pm)	£90.00	£85.00	£80.00
Full Day (8.00am–5.30pm)	£100.00	£95.00	£90.00

Wrap-Around Care & Funding

Early Years Funding is applied for up to 38 weeks per year and covers a maximum of 6 hours per day, taken between 9:00am and 3:00pm, subject to your individual funding entitlement. There is **zero** charge associated with your funded entitlement, we do ask for a voluntary contribution of £3 to cover lunch and snack.

Session Type	£
9am to 3pm (38 weeks a year only)	£0
9am to 1pm (38 weeks a year only)	£0
1pm to 4pm (38 weeks a year only)	£0

Any hours **accessed outside** of the funded entitlement are classed as **wrap-around care** and are chargeable in line with our published fee structure. These are an all-inclusive cost, there are no separate charges for consumables, catering or activities.

Wrap-around care is the charge applied outside of your child's funded hours.

- If you are eligible for 30 hours, up to 6 hours per day can be funded.
- If you are eligible for 15 hours, you will receive a minimum of 3 hours and a maximum of 6 hours per day funded.
- Any hours beyond those funded hours are charged as wrap-around care.

There are 38 funded weeks per year and 14 non-funded weeks.

- During non-funded weeks, full session fees apply.
- During funded weeks, you are charged for the wrap-around care portion only.

Session Type	3 Days	4 Days	5 Days
Standard Day (8.00am–4.00pm) : 6 hours funded wrap around care	£52.80	£47.80	£42.80
Full Day (8.00am–5.30pm) 6 hours funded wrap around care	£62.80	£57.80	£52.80
Standard Day (8.00am–4.00pm) 3 hours funded wrap around care	£71.40	£66.40	£61.40
Full Day (8.00am–5.30pm) 3 hours funded wrap around care	£81.40	£76.40	£71.40

Monthly Payment Plan – Helping You Budget

Because funded and non-funded weeks naturally create fluctuating invoices month to month, we have introduced a monthly payment plan to help smooth this out.

Your annual fees are averaged across the remaining months of the year, allowing you to pay one consistent monthly amount. Invoices still show the actual monthly charges, and any over- or under-payment is fully reconciled at the end of the plan or if your child leaves early.

Example – 4 days per week, Full Day, 30 hours funding eligible.

Indicative averaged monthly payment: **£1176**

Please note this is an indicative example only. Funding weeks can vary each year.