

Welcome to Ruardean Acorns

Care and Education for Children age 2 to 5 years.



SESSION DAYS AND TIMES

We are open Monday to Friday, 9.00am - 3.15pm for 38 weeks a year during school term time. Children can attend morning sessions (9.00am - 12.00pm), afternoon sessions (12.15pm - 3.15pm) or all day (9.00am - 3.15pm). **All booked sessions must be paid for - please see our Fee's policy for more details.**

PLEASE NOTE: Only children booked in for all day sessions are able to have lunch. This can be a packed lunch from home or a hot school meal ordered via the school at £2.28 per day.

FEES

We accept work place vouchers, A2Y0 (Achieving two year old) funding and Free for 3 and 4 years funding towards fee's.

Morning sessions (3 hrs)	Afternoon sessions (3 hrs)	All day (6.25 hrs)
9.00am - 12.00pm	12.15pm - 3.15pm	9.00am - 3.15pm
£13.20	£13.20	£27.50

Help with the cost of childcare

Are you eligible for help toward the cost of childcare fees? The government is introducing **new** ways to help parents with childcare costs. Whether you have toddlers or teens, you could get support. Please click on the 'Childcare choices' link below find out more information:

[Childcare Choices](#)

2 YEAR OLD FUNDING - FREE EARLY LEARNING FOR SOME 2 YEAR OLDS (A2YO Achieving 2 year Olds)

This funding is not open to every child and neither is it accepted at all early years settings. It is only available if the early years setting is registered with Gloucestershire County Council to take the 2 years old funding. Ruardean Acorns is registered with Gloucestershire County Council. If you meet the criteria and have been awarded the funding, you will receive a letter/email from Gloucestershire Family Information Service. Please ensure you bring this letter/email to Ruardean Acorns. You can enquire to see if your child is eligible by phoning 0800 5420202 or 01452 427362. Alternatively, you can register online and submit an enquiry via the Family Portal [Click here to access the online Family Portal](#).

Who is eligible?

To be eligible for this funding, the following criteria should be met by the parent: They meet the eligibility criteria also used for free school meals, the family receive working tax credits and have annual gross earnings of no more than £16,190, the child has an Education and Care Plan (EHCP) or a current statement of Special Educational Needs, the child is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance, the child is in the care of the Local Authority, have left care through special guardianship order, child arrangements order or an adoption order.

When is your child eligible?

The letter will tell you when the funding starts, which is usually the term after your child's second birthday. The funding will last until your child receives the three and four-year-old funding. If you wish to check if your child is eligible you can contact the Family Information Service on 01452 427362, they will need your national insurance number.

Birthday falls between

1st January and 31st March

1st April and 31st August

1st September and 31st December

2 Year Old Funding Available

April (Summer Term)

September (Autumn Term)

January (Spring Term)

Can you use more than one childcare provider?

The free entitlement can be taken with up to two providers, however the total funded hours cannot exceed 15. Most providers will allow you to take the provision flexibly to enable you to meet your needs.

Will there be any additional charges?

A parent cannot be charged for any part of the free entitlement however, a provider may charge for meals, snacks or optional extras as they may not always be included within the free entitlement. If you take more than 15 hours per week there will be a charge made by the provider for these additional hours. Please check with your provider for full details of any additional charges.

FREE FOR 3 AND 4 - FREE EARLY LEARNING FOR 3 AND 4 YEAR OLDS (Universal)

All 3 and 4 year old children are entitled to Funded Early Education and can use childminders, pre-school playgroups, nurseries or children's centers who are registered with Gloucestershire County Council to deliver nursery education. The entitlement is for 15 hours per week over a minimum of 38 weeks in the year. The maximum is 10 hours in any one day. Children must remain in the provision for a minimum of 2 weeks in order to be eligible for the funding. Please note that you if you remove your child before the qualifying period, you will be liable for all costs incurred. A member of staff will provide you with the relevant form for you to apply for the funding.

When is your child eligible?

You can start claiming free early education from the term following your child's 3rd birthday.

Birthday falls between

1st January and 31st March

1st April and 31st August

1st September and 31st December

3 and 4 Year Old Funding Available

April (Summer Term)

September (Autumn Term)

January (Spring Term)

Can you use more than one childcare provider?

The free entitlement can be taken with up to two providers, however the total funded hours cannot exceed 15. Most providers will allow you to take the provision flexibly to enable you to meet your needs.

Will there be any additional charges?

A parent cannot be charged for any part of the free entitlement however, a provider may charge for meals, snacks or optional extras as they may not always be included within the free entitlement. If you take more than 15 hours per week there will be a charge made by the provider for these additional hours. Please check with your provider for full details of any additional charges.

30 hours free funding (Extended)

If your child is eligible for the additional 15 hours funding (totaling 30 hours a week), you **MUST** get a code and bring it to us. See the Childcare Choices website and the Childcare Calculator website. Please note: You will need a government gateway to log in, if you do not have one you will need to register first.

From September 2017, the Government will be funding an additional 15 hours a week free childcare to some children aged three and four, this will be a total of 30 free hours a week. This will commence the term after their third birthday. However, not all 3 and 4 years olds will be eligible for the additional 15 hours funding, please see the criteria below:

To be eligible for the additional 15 hours:

- Two parent families: both parents in the household must be working the equivalent of 16 hours a week either at or above the national living wage or the national minimum wage, up to a maximum of £100k a year per parent.

OR

- Single parent families: one parent in the household must be working the equivalent of 16 hours a week either at or above the national living wage or the national minimum wage, up to a maximum of £100k a year per parent.
- Parents will be required to make an application directly to HMRC for the additional 15 hours, a code will be provided which is valid for 3 months - more details to follow as soon as we receive them.
- There will be a 'grace' period which allows the funding to be paid if a parent is temporarily out of work - more details to follow as soon as we receive them.
- Parents will be required check regularly to ensure their child is still eligible to receive the additional 15 hours free funding - more details to follow as soon as we receive them.

Some Early Years settings will not be offering the additional 15 hours, Ruardean Acorns will be offering the additional 15 free hours from September 2017. We are forward planning to gauge how many children would be eligible and what the uptake might be. This will enable us to ensure correct staff:child ratios are in place ready for September 2017. If your child is eligible to take up the full 30 hours a week and you would like them to attend all week during term time, there would be a payment for the extra 1¼ hrs a week as we are open 31¼ hours a week. At our current hourly rate, it would be £5.50 a week.

Tax Free Childcare

Tax-Free Childcare is a new government scheme to help working parents with the cost of childcare. Parents will be able to open an online account, which they can use to pay for childcare from a registered provider. For every £8 a parent pays in, the government will pay in an extra £2. Parents can receive up to £2,000 per child, per year, towards their childcare costs, or £4,000 for disabled children.

To qualify, parents will have to be in work, and each expecting to earn at least £115 a week and each parent must not have income over £100,000 per year. Tax-Free Childcare will be launched from early 2017. The scheme will be rolled out gradually to families, with parents of the youngest children able to apply first. Parents will be able to apply for all their children at the same time, when their youngest child becomes eligible. All eligible parents will be able to join the scheme by the end of 2017.