

## Parent/Carer Fees and Funding for Nursery Places

### Our Nursery:

Circle Centre operates with two main functions:

- an early years setting providing access to the EYFS and free entitlement (term time only) to nursery education for 2, 3 and 4 year-old children
- a provider of specialist education and therapy for children who have special educational needs (as defined by the 1996 Education Act and the 2014 Children and Families Bill). Autism Early Support Trust Limited heavily subsidises the specialist provision at the Circle Centre Nursery.

It costs the charity approximately £158 per session for a child to attend the Specialist Nursery and receive the help we offer. Funding for this is sourced through;

- Statutory Funding
- Parent Contributions for specialist teaching and therapies
- Fundraising
- Sources of statutory funding to provide our services still leave a significant gap that we ask parents to help bridge.

### Fees and Funding:

A £50 non-refundable Registration Fee is payable prior to the pre-admission meeting, to cover administration costs.

### Local authority – sources of statutory funding

- Parents must agree to enable AES to claim the Early Years Education Grant for their child (when eligible). If we are unable to claim the Early Years Education Grant, parents will be charged the equivalent amount. (This is currently £11.93 for a 2.5hour session.) This funding is for the delivery of the EYFS curriculum.

***This is funding that is in addition to the contribution for specialist teaching and therapy you will be asked to make.***

- Parents who claim disability living allowance for a child aged 3 years or older can nominate AES to claim the **Disability Access Fund**. This fund is an additional £828.00 per child per year. It is issued to a setting to assist towards the costs of supporting a child with additional needs. At Circle Centre we use these additional funds to assist with the cost of the specialist provision within the nursery. If your child is attending a dual setting, only one setting can be nominated on the funding form in your admissions pack. We would be very grateful if you would consider nominating Circle Centre for receipt of this additional fund.

- Income is also received from Local Authorities (LAs) when an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) has been agreed for a child and Higher Needs Funding (HNF) or equivalent is made available. Most children who attend our nursery eventually obtain some level of LA funding for a portion of the cost of their place at the nursery, either through their EHCP or HNF.

## Parent Contributions for specialist teaching and therapies

Parents of children at the Specialist Nursery are asked to contribute to Autism Early Support Trust Limited's costs as follows:

Number of sessions per week	Termly Fee
1 session	No charge applicable
2 session(s)	£720
3 session(s)	£1,080
4 or more session(s)	Price on application
Contribution equivalent to £30 a session	

These contributions are payable in advance on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month by Direct Debit, based on a minimum of 3 months.

If a child is in receipt of an EHCP with our nursery named in Section I, and once our agreed rate of fees for LA's is paid by the LA, parents are entitled to a 50% discount on their contributions for up to 6 sessions (15 hours) from the date the agreed payment is received by Autism Early Support from the LA.

These contributions from parents are non-refundable in the event of a child's absence

In the event of a nursery closure due to instances beyond our control, these contributions will not be refundable unless it is deemed appropriate to do so.

Any family that would face difficulties in meeting these contributions, and which has household income of less than £25k pa, may qualify for financial assistance from the Autism Early Support Trust. Please ask for further details.

## Summary of Funding for Circle Centre

Source of Funding	How Funding is accessed	Parent / Carer responsibility
Early Years 3 and 4 year old nursery grant known as 'Universal Funding'	Applied for by Circle Centre. If no 3 and 4 year old universal funding is available the equivalent costs of £10.98 per session will be charged.	Parents complete Parent/provider agreement and Parent declaration form
2 Year Old Funding	Applied for by parent. If no 2 year old funding is available the equivalent costs of £10.98 per session will be charged.	Parent applies for 2 year old funding if eligible.
30 hours 'Extended Funding'	Parent/ Carers can apply to obtain this additional funding for up to 30 hours of childcare. Circle Centre is NOT able to offer 30 hours.	Applied for by parent. Circle Centre is not a 30 hour setting, but if your child is dual placed at another setting, they can claim this funding using an eligibility code you will get following a successful application..
Disability Access Fund (DAF Funding)	Allocated to a setting by a parent of a child in receipt of Disability Living Allowance	Parent elects for this one off yearly payment to be allocated to Circle Centre.
High Needs Funding	Applied for by Circle Centre	No action required
EHCP Funding		Parents request placement at Circle Centre when DRAFT EHCP is obtained.
Parent Contributions	Invoiced to parent for the specialist teaching and therapies provided at Circle Centre	Parents pay £30 a session via a Direct Debit facility when completing admissions paperwork. (this is for up to 3 sessions only, extra sessions our full fees apply) <i>Any family that would face difficulties in meeting these contributions, and which has household income of less than £25k pa, may qualify for financial assistance from the Autism Early Support Trust. Please ask for further details.</i>

Our admissions policy for families requires membership to 'The Parent's Portal' whilst your child is in attendance at our setting. This is charged at £10 a month

Membership to the portal is **free** for any family in receipt of Financial Assistance.

You can register and subscribe to this service here:

<https://portal.autismearlysupport.org.uk/>