

Circle Centre nursery fees 2024/25

Circle Centre operates with two main functions:

- As an Ofsted registered 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.
- As 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). These needs are related to communication, interaction and sensory differences that impact on a child's learning, engagement and emotional regulation.

As well as being an Ofsted registered early years provider, Autism Early Support is also a UK registered charity, which means we raise funds through our charitable activities to subsidise the parental fee we must charge to cover the cost of our specialist provision.

Here we provide a detailed breakdown of parental fees payable each term, the financial assistance you may be eligible to claim, plus the government funded entitlements and support AES can access to subsidise your child's provision.

Our fee structure has been created in compliance with early years statutory guidance.

Deposit

A £50 deposit is required to secure your child's place following an initial assessment. This will be refunded on your first monthly payment.

Parental fees

Specialist therapeutic support is delivered to all children at the Circle Centre and is included within our provision. As this is not expected to be provided under EYFS, our parental fees include a contribution towards the cost of delivering this.

Through our charitable activities and statutory early years and SEN funding, AES is able to subsidise provision and minimise the parental charge to £30 per session (the full cost to AES to deliver a 2.5 hour nursery session is £158 per child).

Through our charitable activities and statutory early years and SEN funding, AES is able to subsidise provision and minimise the parental charge to £30 per session for the first 3 sessions your child attends per week. If you take 4-6 sessions per week, these sessions are

charged at the higher rate of £111.50 per session**.

Our table details the cost to attend 2 to 6 sessions per week for a 12 week term:

Number of 2.5 hour sessions your child attends per week*	Cost per term
2 (@£30 per session)	£ 720
3 (@£30 per session)	£1,080
4 (1 st 3 @ £30 plus 1 @ £111.50 per session)	£2,418
5 (1 st 3 @ £30 plus 2 @ £111.50 per session)	£3,756
6 (1 st 3 @ £30 plus 3 @ £111.50 per session)	£5,094

*The number of sessions available to your child will be discussed with you on application. Typically, children attend 3 sessions per week.

Early Years Entitlement (2, 3 & 4 year old funding)

If your 2, 3 & 4 year old funding entitlement of 15 or 30 hours has been allocated to your child's other setting, we are not able to claim any of your entitlement. We will require you to top up your session fee by the equivalent amount to cover the funding.

So for example:

Your session fee becomes £44.00 (The £30 parent fee plus an additional £14.00*) per session.

Assistance with your fees

**All parents are invited to apply for financial assistance which is means tested. You will be asked to submit details of your annual household income and we will assess this against our financial assistance threshold. As of September 2023, we based this on the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's 'A Minimum Income Standard for the United Kingdom in 2022' report and the online Minimum Income Calculator UK.

A means test form will be included in your application pack.

Our payment terms

Termly fees are requested to be paid in instalments. We request the payment before the 28th day of each month.

Statutory Funding streams

Please determine as soon as possible if you are eligible for the funded entitlement hours. This was previously known as 'universal ¾ year old funding'. At Circle Centre, our academic year is 35 week (instead of 38 weeks like most schools and nurseries). This means that you will not be able to use your full annual entitlement for 570 hours at our setting.

You can check your entitlement here: <https://www.gov.uk/chilcare-calculator>.

The funding streams we offer for 15 hours include:

- Universal entitlement for all 3 & 4 year-olds
- Disadvantaged 2-year-olds (parents who receive some additional government support) *
- Eligible Working Parent Entitlement for 2 yr olds (from April 2024) *.

*If you are eligible for these funding streams, you will be given a code that we ask you to include in The Local Authority Parent/Provider Agreement. (This is a form that both parent & AES complete and submit).

Funding you are eligible to claim on behalf of Circle Centre

Disability Living Allowance & Disability Access Fund

If you claim **Disability Living Allowance** for your child, you can nominate AES to claim the **Disability Access Fund**. This fund provides our setting with an annual award that significantly helps towards the cost of our specialist provision here at Circle Centre. Please note, if your child also attends another nursery, you can only nominate one setting. In order for Circle Centre to receive the **DAF** we must be in receipt of some Universal entitlement funding for your child.

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

This is a funding programme for all statutory funded children. This funding is for the setting to fund additional resources such as staff training, books or services. Parents must meet a certain criteria. Please refer to [Get extra funding for your early years provider - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk) for further information.

Education & Health Care Plan (EHCP)

Most of the children who attend Circle Centre apply for an EHCP at some point due to them needing ongoing personalised support for their unique health and educational needs.

When an EHCP is finalised, provision is detailed and a placement named. This includes the funding required to meet their provision requirements. As well as the information you are required to submit for your application, as your child's setting, we will be required to provide evidence for your application. Should you receive EHCP funding during your child's time with us, this would supplement the cost of your parental fee contribution.

Sources of Statutory funding that Circle Centre applies for directly:

Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF) – we apply to this fund to support meeting the needs of individuals or groups of children with lower levels or emerging Special Educational Needs (SEN).

High Needs Block Funding (HNBF) – This is an application we make for an individual child who requires further funding to support their individualised needs and implement highly personalised support. This would be applied for on a case by case basis.

Further reading:

- [Autism Early Support Admissions Policy](#)
- [Sources of income for early years providers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Get extra funding for your early years provider - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Early years entitlements: local authority funding operational guide 2024 to 2025 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)