Circle Centre nursery fees 2025/26 (effective 1st February 2026)

Circle Centre operates with two main functions:

- As an Ofsted registered early years setting providing access to the Early Years Entitlement Funding (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 contribution fee for specialist therapeutic support 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.

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 contribution 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 contribution fee to £33 per session for a maximum of 3 sessions. Additional sessions will still be subsidised to £132.00 per session (the full cost to AES to deliver a 2.5 hour nursery session is £184 per child).

The table details the cost to attend 2 to 6 sessions per week for a 12 week term, effective from **1st April 2025****:

Number of 2.5 hour sessions your child attends per week*	**Cost per term**
2 (@£33 per session)	£ 792
3 (@£33 per session)	£1,188
4 (1st 3 @ £33 plus 1 @ £132 per session)	£2,772
5 (1st 3 @ £33 plus 2 @ £132 per session)	£4,356
6 (1st 3 @ £33 plus 3 @ £132 per session)	£5,940

*The number of sessions available to your child will be discussed with you on application. Typically, children attend 3 sessions per week.
** Fees are reviewed annually and subject to change (A terms notice is given)

School-Ready sessions
Depending on our capacity and cohort, in our Spring & Summer terms, additional sessions may become available to you which may be advantage when preparing your child for primary school. We will notify you if and when these become available.

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 Paretnal Contribution fee by the equivalent amount to cover the funding.

So for example:

Your Parental Contribution fee becomes £47.00 (The £33 parent contribution 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.

To provide a benchmark for our means testing, we use the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's ' A Minimum Income Standard for the UK in 2025' report.

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 either of 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 you & Circle Centre 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) for further information.

Education & Health Care Plan (EHCP)
Most of the children who attend Circle Centre apply for an EHCP to provide for the ongoing personalised support required for their unique health and educational needs.

As well as the information you are required to submit for your application, as your child's setting, we will also be required to provide to submit evidence.

When an EHCP is finalised, provision for the child is documented and their school/nursery is 'named'. The EHCP will cover the cost of the additional provision allocated in the child's plan and the child's named setting receives funding to provide this.
Should you receive EHCP full funding during your child's time with us, and we are 'named', there will be no parental 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) – In some circumstances, we are able to make an application for funding to implement highly personalised support for an individual child.

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)