



Consumables and additional charges.

Recently the DfE published new Guidance on the delivery of the early years funded entitlements.

I would like to reassure you that our fees or charges are staying the same.

Key points: Effective from April 2025

- Providers can charge for consumables (nappies, sun cream, meals) and additional activities, but these must be voluntary and must not be a condition of accessing a free place.
- Buying additional fee-paying sessions must not be a condition of accessing a free place.
- Invoices must clearly itemise the cost of funded hours, fee paying hours, consumables and activity charges.

Previously as a setting we used to request a voluntary contribution which covered the cost of snacks and consumables, which are not covered by the government nursery funding, (such as paint, paper, craft products, playdough ingredients, and towels, soap). However, we stopped requesting this as not everyone paid it! Instead, we extended our day by 15 minutes each end of the day (but charged for this additional half hour at lunch time, something that is common practice in Early years settings that are not as flexible as us, those that either only allow 15 hours of funding to be used across either morning's or afternoon's. These 15 minutes also enabled us to have drop off and collection at our gate, as the logistics of the playground and school hours are a challenge to us, as you know.

We will not be charging for consumables and will continue with our existing hours, however the funding will pay for the preschool sessions but between 9-12 and 12-3 and we will split the lunch session to charge between 8.45-9.00 and 3.00-3.15, (extended day charge), enabling us to continue on the same hours, as this would impact on our whole daily routine,!

Basically, you will be charged the same fees you are already paying. It is for 12 weeks as we will then be governed by the school and we are not clear yet how things will be operated.

Please if this doesn't make sense to you, message me and I will try to explain it in more detail!