



Additional Services and Consumables Charges 2024

Fees are charged depending on the age of your child. Variable rates apply due to the requirements of staff to child ratios. All fees are inclusive of meals, snacks and services. Fees are payable at the full rate for Bank Holidays.

Full Day Sessions - Effective April 2024

Session	Cocoons 9months-2yrs	Caterpillars 2yrs-3yrs	Butterflies 3yrs-5yrs
All Day: 8am-6pm	£66.50	£64.50	£63.50

Half Day Sessions

Morning: 8am-1pm
£34.50
Afternoon: 1pm-6pm
£33.00

15 and 30 hours funding consumables and services charge - Effective April 2024

9 Month Funding AD & HD	2 Year Funding AD & HD	3&4 Year Full Day:	3&4 Year Half Day:
£0.00	£0.00	£12.00	£6.00

Help with paying and understanding your childcare fee's

Get 20% off with Tax Free Childcare

You can get up to £500 every 3 months (up to £2,000 a year) for each of your children to help with the costs of childcare. This goes up to £1,000 every 3 months if a child is disabled (up to £4,000 a year).

If you get Tax-Free Childcare, you'll set up an online childcare account for your child. For every £8 you pay into this account, the government will pay in £2 to use to pay your provider.

You can get Tax-Free Childcare at the same time as 30 hours free childcare if you're eligible for both.

Get Up To 70% Of Your Early Education and Care Costs Covered With Working Tax Credit

You can claim the childcare element of Working Tax Credit if you are a single parent and you are in work for at least 16 hours a week. This also applies if you are part of a couple and you are both in work for at least 16 hours.

You Can Claim Back Up To 85% Of The Cost Of Early Education and Care With Universal Credit

You can get the childcare element of universal credit if you are a single parent and you are in work or you are in a couple and you both work or one of you works and the other is unable to work because they are ill, a carer or absent from the household.

Please note the above may be subject to change in line with government guidance.

Upcoming Changes to Childcare Support

Starting from April 2024, existing childcare support will be expanded in phases. By September 2025, most working families with children under the age of 5 will be entitled to 30 hours of childcare support.

The changes are being introduced gradually to make sure that providers can meet the needs of more families. This means that:

From **April 2024**, eligible working parents of 2-year-olds will be able to access 15 hours childcare support.

(Calculated as 11.2 hours per week for settings open all year round).

From **September 2024**, 15 hours childcare support will be extended to eligible working parents of children from the age of 9 months to 3-year-olds.

From **September 2025**, eligible working parents with a child from 9 months old up to school age will be entitled to 30 hours of childcare a week.

(Calculated as 22.4 hours per week for settings open all year round).

For more information about the upcoming changes to childcare support visit: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Early Years Entitlement for 2, 3 and 4 year olds (EYE)

Parents must supply their child's birth certificate and complete a registration form along with providing us with their eligibility code in order to register for the funding. These codes must be renewed every 3 months to ensure you remain eligible. Any codes not renewed or expired will leave the parent/carer liable to pay nursery fees in full with no Early Years Entitlement deductions. Each term you will be asked to sign a declaration form confirming the number of hours claimed by Little Explorers. If a parent is claiming at more than one setting and the claim goes over, the parent/carer will be liable to pay the nursery fees in full.

30 Hours Funding

Some children may also be entitled to an additional 570 hours funding. This funding has a strict criteria and is aimed at working parents.

Parents must apply the term before if they wish to use the additional funding. Children are currently unable to start to claim the additional hours partway through a term. For example, if your child turns 3 in August and you do not provide your 11 digit pin until 1st September, your child will not be able to utilise the additional hours until the following January. When you apply, you'll be confirming that you need childcare so that you and your partner, if you have one, can work. If your child is already in a full-time reception class in a state funded school, you will not be eligible for 30 hours free childcare. In order to receive the additional funded childcare, you will need to register via the Government website and once completed, will need to provide us with the following: 11 digit code, parents full names and National Insurance numbers, a signed consent form to enable us to verify your 30 hours pin with the Local Authority's Entitlements Team (we will keep your consent on record). Parents will be required to renew their application every 3 months.

A Consumables and Services charge is payable throughout all funded hours for children in receipt of all 3 and 4 year old funding. This is because the funding does not cover this element of our fee.

Any additional hours and extra sessions attended will be charged at the usual rate.

Little Explorers Day Nursery and Preschool reserves the right to withdraw a space with immediate effect if full fees are not received.
Late fees will incur a late charge of £20.00.

Funding Support - Why am I paying for childcare when my child gets 15 / 30 hours free?

At Little Explorers we always want to be open and transparent with families about the cost of childcare and what you pay.

The government only pay what they call 'the childcare element' of fees which works out as less than nearly all early years providers actual childcare fees. For example; we charge £31.00 for a morning session but the government will only pay approximately £24.80 of this. Therefore as a setting we have a gap of £6.20 between what the government pay us and what our fees are to cover all of our costs and services.

The government have guidelines which we must follow regarding what we can and cannot do; childcare providers **must not** charge hourly top up fee's between the short fall the government pay and our actual rates. However they do allow us to charge for Consumables and Services which they deem as separate to the funding.

Therefore to ensure as a setting we remain sustainable and are able to continue to offer a high level of care and service to all of our Little Explorers children and families we place a 'Consumables and Services' charge on all funded spaces.

Below is a guide to what this covers.

Additional Extras: Consumables and Services...

- Daily mindfulness sessions
- Admin costs
- Yoga sessions
- Music and movement sessions
- Mid-morning and afternoon snack for all children including whole milk or alternative dependant on dietary requirement
- Spontaneous trips
- Little Chef's cooking classes
- eyLog
- Use of sensory room and experiences
- Daily Spanish lessons
- Breakfast
- Home cooked lunch with dessert made freshly each day by our in house chef - catering to all dietary requirements
- Extra curricular activities provided by out of house services, for example; Drama Tots, Music Bugs, Zoo.
- Speech and Language support
- SENCO support
- Staff training
- Additional staff member within each room

Please note: this list is not exhaustive.

The details in this policy have been formed in partnership with the Somerset Local Provider Agreement September 2024 and with the advice and support from the Early Years Entitlements Team at Somerset County Council.

It has been a long running pursuit between Early Years Providers and Somerset County Council to try and get the government to recognise the amount which is paid to childcare providers does not meet the staff wages, cost of living, inflation and business costs. Not only does this have an impact on every setting to try and remain financially sustainable and meet every child's needs but it also adds pressure to families who are working and trying to cover the costs of these childcare bills.

We will always continue to voice our concerns and the challenges families and providers continually face with the lack of funding given to the childcare industry as we believe every child should be entitled to an education which is rich in experiences and opportunities.

If you are suffering financial hardship or struggling to pay your child's nursery fee's please discuss with management and we will do our utmost to support you in line with government guidance.

This policy was adopted on	This policy was reviewed on:	Reviewed by:
<i>01/08/2022</i>	15/04/2024	Gemma Roberts