

September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

As some of you maybe aware, the early years sector has and have been for years battling for the government hourly funded rate to be increased inline with the standards of care we as earl years professionals provide for you and your children.

We fought to get the word FREE taken out of the funded title as this is NOT FREE funding as the government hourly rate does not match most early years settings hourly rate therefore there has always been a short fall. Settings around the country began to charge a compulsory supplement fee to help close the gap of the poor funding rate and settings hourly rate to ensure we can continue to provide the care we give your children.

Central and local government have recently decided that settings can no longer request this as a compulsory fee and that we need to request a voluntary fee instead. This will give you as parents an option to Opt In or Opt out of the payment request.

Please see attached breakdown of what the government funding covers stated from the EYFS framework and then a breakdown of everything else we provide which is what the consumable charge will cover. Our enhanced provision is implemented daily even with the funding rate being so low.

With the decision from the central government stating we can only request a contribution payment, we have had to make the extremely hard and upsetting decision to possibly cut down our enhanced provision.

This has been an extremely hard decision for us as a setting, as you know we are a family setting and treat your children how we would want our own children to be treated and cared for, but unfortunately we can not continue to subsidise the downfall of the government funding, we are asking for the support of all parents to help us continue to provide our enhanced provision for your children.

The price of the contribution payment is £1.50 per funded session attended. Sessions are classed as 9.00-12.00 or 11.45-2.45.

Please circle whether you wish to OPT IN or OPT OUT of the payment schedule.

I would like to **OPT IN** for the contribution payment or I would like to **OPT OUT** for the contribution payment. Please sign and return this form.

Parent's Signature.....

Date.....

Many Thanks

Sue

Consumable Payment

In accordance with the government funding agreement, we must layout clearly the reasoning for our request for a contribution supplement to all funded families.

Please see below break down as to what is not included in the government funding

1. Snack related items

Under the **EYFS/DFE** framework, settings are only required to provide drinking water and a snack any other drinks/food items are not essential therefore the following is not included in framework therefore is not covered by the government funding.

- Snack (Crackers, Cheese, Breadsticks, Jam, Butter, Bread)
- Ingredients for cooking and baking activities.
- Food for special events
- Party equipment for special events

2. Art and crafts

Expressive arts and design states to provide a variety of creative materials, many of the items listed below are considered enhancement resources and will not be covered by government funding.

- Speciality paper including tissue paper, coloured card, textured paper.
- Special paints such as certain colours for special activities, acrylic paints.
- Collage material such as sequins, magazines, birthday cards, foam shapes, pom poms, pipe cleaners, glitter, google eyes
- Modelling playdough, food colouring, flavouring
- Specialist children's tools such as child safe knives, cutters etc for playdough.

3. Outdoor Supplies

The **EYFS/DFE** framework encourages outdoor play but does not require enhanced learning experiences therefore all our outdoor equipment is not needed but we enhance our provision by having the following:

- Protective gloves
- Gardening tools (child size forks, spades, shovels etc)
- Compost, soil and seeds
- Outdoor chalk
- Buckets and spades for sand and water play
- Mud kitchen equipment
- Essential oils and spices for when children make potions

4. Sensory Play

Sensory play is encouraged in the **EYFS/DFE** framework, but providing a wide variety of materials goes beyond the minimum requirements, the resources listed below are not essential but are always provided:

- Shaving Foam
- Cornflour
- Rice, pasta, lentils
- Kinetic sand

- Scented oils and herbs
- Ice cubes
- Fabric pieces

5. Learning and Educational Resources

The **EYFS/DFE** focuses on learning through play but does not specify the quantity or variety of these learning resources. The resources listed below are not essential but always provided:

- Whiteboard and Markers
- Chalkboards and chalks
- Laminating pouches for creating durable and long-lasting resources
- Magnifying glasses for science based and exploring activities
- Clipboards and pencils for outdoor learning
- Flashcards and cue cards for literacy and number games
- Educational learning games and sets
- Loose parts for holistic play
- Parallel Sports/Yoga
- Outings to Berwick woods, Spring Farm, Tesco, Library, Train/Bus ride

6. First Aid, Safety and hygiene Supplies

The **EYFS/DFE** framework requires providers to meet health and safety and basic first aid care is essential, the items listed below are not essential but always provided:

- Instant Ice Packs
- Additional Cold Compresses
- Extra disposable gloves for non-statutory procedures
- Specialist safety equipment
- Nappies
- Wet Wipes
- Nappy sacks

7. Cleaning and Maintenance

The **EYFS/DFE** states that providers must supply a clean and hygienic setting, enhanced cleaning and maintenance is not essential but always provided:

- Antibacterial surface spray
- Antibacterial wipes
- Air Fresheners
- Cleaning Cloths
- Floor cleaner
- Hand Sanitiser

8. Special events and celebrations

The **EYFS/DFE** does not require settings to hold seasonal events which we do every year, making the following not essential but always provided:

- Special craft materials for activities that your child brings home.
- Party food and treats
- Disposable table ware
- Entertainer
- Party Gifts

9. Miscellaneous and Administration

Administration and marketing consumable are essential for the setting to operate but are not essential to the **EYFS/DFE** but are always provided:

- Printer/Photocopy agreement
- Paper to print invoices, newsletters, reminders, registrations paperwork etc.
- Laminating to ensure durability
- Specialist boards to display information.

Sections 1-9 above are all the consumables that we provide to ensure your child is receiving the best quality education and learning we can provide as a setting. We pride ourselves on giving all of the children in our care the best quality education possible and without the items listed above this may not be able to happen. All the items above enable us to enhance the high quality, well rounded and enriched activities provided to your children, these enhancements help your children learn more. This is why unfortunately we apply these voluntary sustainability charges to enable us to maintain the high-quality provision.

Unfortunately, with the changes to our funding agreement from the central government, we now have to make this a voluntary contribution, for us to stay sustainable and to still provide this high-quality learning opportunities to your children you need to state whether you are happy to contribute to the sustainability supplement. Unfortunately, if you do not contribute then we will need to limit what is offered to your child. If you are not willing to pay the supplement then we will be unable to provide your child with snack, our sports coach sessions, outings, nappies, wipes, tissues, and nappy sacks (these will need to be provided by yourself on a daily basis)