

Funded Hours & Charges Policy Carol Lumsden (Updated for EYFS 2025)

Effective from 1st April 2025 and updated September 2025

Policy Statement: at Carol's, we are committed to delivering high-quality, affordable, and accessible childcare services in line with the statutory guidance on early education and childcare entitlements. This policy outlines how we offer government-funded early education hours, additional charges, and our approach to transparency in invoicing, in accordance with the latest Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory guidance and the Early Education and Childcare Entitlements guidance, effective from 1 April 2025.

Opening hours

Monday 7.30am -6pm

Tuesday 7.30am-6pm

Wednesday 7.30am-6pm

Thursday 7.30am-6pm

Friday 7.30am-4pm

Saturday closed

Sunday closed

Funded Early Education Entitlement

I offer government-funded childcare places as part of the 15-hour and 30-hour free entitlement scheme for children eligible from 9 months, two, three, and four-year-old. These funded hours:

- Are available free of charge to parents.
- Can be accessed without any mandatory additional charges.
- Are offered during agreed sessions, in line with the EYFS requirements.

Additional Charges

While the government funding covers the cost of delivering high-quality early education, it does not cover:

- Meals (breakfast, lunch, snacks, and tea
- Consumables (nappies, wipes, sun cream, etc.)

- Additional activities such as trips, extra-curricular experiences, or specialist classes.

Childminder provides the following at no additional cost and included in funded hours

- Cereal (Weetabix/rice crispies/toast etc for breakfast if required)
- Healthy snacks
- Baby wipes (unless you have a special brand)
- Toys /Equipment
- Activities/Resources
- Outings

Parents to provide the following

- A healthy packed lunch or food to reheat
- Any food for special dietary requirements
- Special brand of baby wipes other than the ones I provide
- Nappies
- Sun cream
- Nappy cream
- Calpol

Voluntary Contributions:

Parents may choose to contribute towards additional costs for special outings/or activities but these charges are entirely optional and voluntary and are not a condition of accessing a free place. Reasonable alternatives will be available where possible (e.g. parents may provide their own instead of purchasing extras/consumables).

Transparency & Invoicing

To ensure transparency and compliance with statutory guidance, my invoices will clearly itemise the following:

1. Free entitlement hours received.
2. Additional private paid hours (if applicable).
3. Food charges (if applicable)
4. Non-food consumable charges (if applicable).
5. Activity charges (if applicable).

Charging for Private Hours

As stated in the private hours contract, parents may choose to book additional private childcare hours beyond their funded entitlement. These additional hours:

- Are subject to standard hourly rates at £5.00 hour
- Are not a requirement for accessing a funded place
- Late pick up charges apply unless I have prior notice £5.00 per 15 mins

Deposits & Fees

- A refundable deposit may be required to secure a place, but this will be returned once the child starts attending - £50.00

Flexibility of Hours

- Parents will receive clear information on how many free hours they are entitled to per week.
- There will be no artificial breaks within the day.
- Patterns of provision will depend on availability within the childminding setting.

Holidays/sickness

As stated in contract, fees are still payable if your child is off sick/on holiday. If I (childminder) am off sick/on holiday, then there will be no charges to you.

If a funded child does not attend, they will lose their hours for that day/week. They will not be carried forward, as stated in funding contract.

Alignment with EYFS 2025 Changes

This policy reflects the latest EYFS updates effective from September 2025, ensuring that our setting remains compliant with new requirements, including:

- Clearer invoicing and breakdown of charges by January 2026.
- Ensuring fair access to free places without mandatory charges.
- Offering reasonable alternatives for additional chargeable items.

Review & Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed annually or earlier if required to remain compliant with statutory guidance. Parent feedback will be welcomed to ensure transparency and fairness in all charging practices.

Date: 1st September 2025 and will be reviewed annually or earlier if required