

Early Years Funding Policy for Lisa's Childminding Services

Introduction

Childminders play a vital role in delivering early education and childcare to families and we are eligible to receive government funding to support families with the costs of care for young children. This funding allows many families access to affordable, high-quality childcare and supports children's early development before they start school.

Government-Funded Early Years Entitlements

- **15 Hours Universal Entitlement:** All three and four-year-olds are entitled to 15 hours of free childcare per week, for 38 weeks per year.
- **30 Hours Extended Entitlement:** Working parents of children aged 9 months to 4 years may be eligible for an additional 15 hours, making a total of 30 hours of childcare per week, for 38 weeks of the year.
- **Funding for Two-Year-Olds:** Some two-year-olds from lower-income families, those with special needs or disabilities, or looked-after children may qualify for 15 hours of funded childcare.

Funding is offered the term after your child turns 9 months old and is only offered for 38 weeks of the year which doesn't include school holidays or bank holidays. We try to be as flexible as possible so we offer 'stretched hours' which means if you are using less hours each week, we can carry your unused hours over to cover for school holidays to help keep cost down for you.

To find out if you are eligible and for more information you can follow this link

<https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/>

You need to check eligibility and then share your eligibility code with me. It is your responsibility to reconfirm every 3 months or funding will not be accessible and normal fee's will be charged (currently at £5 per hour).

We are also registered with the government tax free scheme and also accept childcare vouchers.

Opening hours

Mon 7am - 5:30pm

Tues 7am - 5:30pm

Wed 7am – 5:30pm

Thurs 7am – 5:30pm

Fri 7am – 5:00pm

We are open 47 weeks of the year not including bank holidays.

Holidays will be given at the beginning of the year for the full year so that you can plan childcare accordingly. This is subject to change but is very unlikely that there will be any changes but if there are changes made, you will always have as much notice as possible and never less than 4 weeks notice.

Funded hours can be used any time or day and with a minimum of 2 hours per day.

Funded hours can not be swapped for siblings ie if a sibling is poorly, I can not extend the other child's hours by using the poorly child's funded hours.

I can not change the contracted hours without prior warning of at least 4 weeks notice and any change would only be if there was a space for your child while still being in our ratio. We will always try to be as accommodating as possible.

If you bring your child late or collect your child earlier than the contracted hours, you will not be owed those hours back.

Fees

Hourly fee £5:00 per hour for all aged children

Meals/snacks No additional fee

Outings No additional fee

Parent holiday including bank Holidays are to be given with 4 weeks notice and half fee to be paid.

Childminder holiday including bank holiday. Holidays are set annually and half fees are to be paid.

Parent/child sick/unplanned day off . Full fee to be paid

Childminder sick/unplanned day off. No fee and payment will be refunded by deducting it off the next months invoice. If it is on a funded day, funded hours will be given back on another day if possible (ratio permitting) , or giving you funded hours where you would usually pay private hours ie if your child comes for 40 hours per week and you pay for 10 private hours, I would use the funded hours instead of charging you or you would be given it to cover school holidays where you don't get funding (either covering holiday pay or using hours in the holidays when your child attends)

We do not take a deposit and do not charge a reservation fee. We do not charge any other fees ie late pick up fees and only charge for any extra hours used at our usual fee of £5 per hour (rates are charged to the nearest half hour).

We do not charge for any resources that we use for the high quality teaching your child will receive and we only ask you to supply your child's nappies, wipes, nappy bags and formula milk (if applicable).

Fees are to be paid monthly and in advance on or before the last day of a calendar month. Please be aware that weekends and public holidays affect the date of payments through the tax free childcare scheme and standing orders and therefore funds should be in the account by the last working day of the month if the last day of the month falls on a weekend or public holiday.

Invoices will be sent out the week before they are due. Please prioritise your childcare bill along with your other important bills. Unpaid fees could result in childcare being terminated.

Termination

All fees must be paid in full before the contract is terminated. It is normally 4 weeks notice for termination but if your child is funded then sometimes it may work out that it is longer as I can not terminate the contract during a term as I will have been paid in advance.

Please note that the termination period does not cover holidays/time off.