

Funded Hours & Charges Policy – Lisa Nitsch (Updated for EYFS 2025)

Effective from: 1 April 2025

Policy Statement: I Lisa Nitsch am 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.

Funded Early Education Entitlement

We offer government-funded childcare places as part of the **15-hour and 30-hour free entitlement scheme** for eligible two, three, and four-year-old children. 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 £1.50 , snacks £1.00, lunch £2.50 and tea £3.00)
- Consumables (nappies, wipes, sun cream, etc.) parents to provide please.
- Additional activities such as trips, extra-curricular experiences, or specialist classes.

Voluntary Contributions:

Parents **may choose** to contribute towards these additional costs, but these charges are entirely optional and are not a condition of accessing a free place. Reasonable alternatives will be available where possible (e.g. parents may provide a packed lunch instead of purchasing meals). This will be discussed with parents on sign up.

Transparency & Invoicing

To ensure transparency and compliance with statutory guidance, our 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.**
5. **Activity charges (if applicable).**

Childminders are **not required** to publish their charges online, but this information will be clearly communicated to parents via written agreements and invoices.

Charging for Private Hours

Parents **may choose** to book additional private childcare hours beyond their funded entitlement. These additional hours:

- Are subject to standard hourly rates - £4.50 per hour.
- Are not a requirement for accessing a funded place.

Deposits & Fees

- A **refundable deposit** may be required to secure a funded place, but this will be returned once the child starts attending.
- **Non-refundable registration fees** will not be charged for funded places.

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** in free entitlement hours that prevents parents from using their full entitlement in a way that supports their work commitments.
- Patterns of provision will depend on availability within the childminding setting.

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.

Signed: L. Nitsch

Date: December 2025