

Funding and fees Policy - At ABC Childminding, I aim to provide a high quality, flexible childcare service that meets the needs of families in a fair and transparent way. This policy outlines my current fees and payment arrangements. All Government Funded Childcare for children ages 9 months to 5 years and Payments through Tax-Free Childcare are accepted. For Government Funded Childcare: Working parents eligible for 30 hours must apply via <https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/eligibility-checker> before the deadline for the term their child reaches the eligible age and must keep their code valid every 3 months. It is your responsibility to ensure your code is valid. If code is not provided/valid and the deadline passes, funding will not be available, and full payment will be required. All 3- & 4-year-olds receive 15 hours Government Funded Childcare no matter of their families' circumstances. Some 2-year-olds whose families are in receipt of additional support may also be entitled to 15 hours but would need eligibility confirmed by myself. Tax Free Childcare: Working parents can apply for Tax Free Childcare through the following link <https://www.gov.uk/get-tax-free-childcare>

My Opening Hours - 8.00am – 6pm Tue Wed Thurs Days and hours are offered based on the families' requirements, depending on availability. If all funding is used and additional hours are required, these will be charged at my non funded rates detailed below.

Fees - Hourly rate: £8 per hour. An Optional Care Package is available to make childcare easier and more convenient for parents. It includes all meals, care items, outings, and resources. This package is paid monthly in advance.

Cost per Day: - 9 months – end of term before 3rd birthday: £10 per day

From the term your child turns 3: £20 per day.

If you choose not to take the care package, a list of items you must provide on a daily basis will be given including nutritious, cold food only. Frequent outings to play centres and local attractions are a regular part of our learning environment. My provision includes weekly outings that form part of our curriculum and may require an additional charge - if you haven't agreed to the care package. If you have concerns about these costs, please speak with me so we can discuss.

What the Optional Care Package Includes –

Meals & Nutrition: - Cooked nutritious breakfast, lunch and light tea - Snacks & fresh fruit - Drinks: milk and water –

Outings & Trips: Includes entrance fees and transport to Owl Tree Café Play Centre, Kids Town Blyth, local parks, library, Saltwell Park, Jesmond Dene, and more.

Care Items: - Nappies - Wipes - Nappy sacks - Cream - All sundries - Cost Breakdown of Care Package 0 – 3 Years: - Meals, snacks, drinks: £5 - Nappies, wipes, cream, nappy sacks: £2 - Trips & outings: £3. **Total: £10 per day**

3 Years+: - Meals, snacks, drinks: £12 - Nappies, wipes, nappy sacks, cream: £3 - Trips & outings: £5. **Total: £20 per day**

Purpose of the Care Package: This package is designed to help busy parents by removing the need to pack multiple items each day. Simply drop off and pick up your child, making mornings stress-free. Funded & Unfunded Hours - Government funding covers 38 weeks per year- 14 weeks are unfunded.

Holidays, unfunded hours and absence - Provider takes 6 weeks holiday at half pay. Unfunded Hours Cost: - £8 per hour. Fees are payable for the child's absence, including sickness and holidays, as the childcare place is kept open for your child. I take 6 weeks of annual leave each year. Half pay is due for any holidays taken including your own. Parents will be given at least four weeks' notice of planned holidays.

Payment Terms - Care package payments are monthly in advance Fees are payable in advance on the 1st of every month for the month ahead. When a child starts, the total annual fee will be calculated based on attendance from September to August. This total will then be divided equally across twelve months so that the payment amount remains the same each month. Payments can be made by Bank Transfer or through your Tax-Free Childcare Account. A receipt will be provided for all payments upon request. Extra hours beyond the agreed schedule will be charged at the hourly rate. Hours before or after my opening times may be available with notice and charged at £10 per hour.

Review of Fees - Fees are reviewed annually, and parents will receive at least four weeks' notice to any change.