

Charging policy

Marie's childminding is a childminding service offering childcare for children aged 0-11 years. Government funding of 15 and 30 hours is delivered as specified.

Aim

I aim to be open, transparent and competitively priced at all times, and handle all financial transactions in a professional and responsive manner

Opening hours - Marie's childminding is open Monday – Thursday 07:30-18:00

Fees

From 01/01/26 until further notice

Children aged under 2	Hourly fee	Full day (10 hours)
Days not funded/normal rate	£5 per hour	£50.00
Funded*	£0.00	£0.00

Children aged 2	Hourly fee	Full day (10 hours)
Days not funded/normal rate	£5 per hour	£50.00
Funded*	£0.00	£0.00

Children age 3 and over	Hourly fee	Full day (10 hours)
Days not funded/normal rate	£5 per hour	£50.00
Funded*	£0.00	£0.00

* A funded day starts from the school term after a child is 9 months' old. Depending on the child's age and parent eligibility, either 15 or 30 hours per week funding for 38 weeks of the year is available. I do not offer stretched funding.

Funding can be used for a maximum of 10 hours per day. Less hours can be claimed per day if sharing funding with another provider (example -for wraparound only care) or if only need so many hours due to work patterns. The 30 hours can also be spread out over the week instead of all 10 hours in a day.

Any extra hours the child attends a week, (if more than the 30 hours funding), will be charged at the childminders rate of £5 an hour for any additional hours. This hourly rate also applies in the school holidays as funding is term time only.

Method

- I charge for an hourly rate of £5 per hour regardless of age
- Rates are charged to the nearest half hour if attending more than one hour.
- For children receiving and not receiving government funding, snacks are provided by myself free of charge.
- No consumables are charged, parents are to supply their children's own nappies, wipes, packed lunches/meals.
- For children who qualify for government funding, Invoices for monthly periods will be shown on each statement. A period could cover 1 January to 31 March, 1 April to 31 August, 1 September to 31 December or any combination of these depending on when a child starts to be eligible for the funding (i.e. from the start of the school term following 9month old, or their second or third birthday).
- I do not charge for any bank holidays, or any holidays I take when I am closed.
- Extra hours taken up outside of funding entitlements will be shown on monthly invoices.
- My fees are reviewed annually, any changes usually take effect from the start of a school academic year (September) plenty of notice will be given prior to this.
- I provide an admissions policy to all new and existing parents stating my fees and opening hours.
- Illness any child absence or holidays taken during funded or non-funded hours will not be refunded due to taking up a fee place when I am open. Any closure through my own illness or holidays during funded or non-funded hours will be offered as a refund or alternative session.
- Invoices get sent out by the 1st of every month, (advance payment for the month)
- Maries childminding is signed up to receive payments from the Tax-Free Childcare scheme via HMRC. I also accept Childcare Vouchers from several voucher providers – details available on request. I also accept Bacs payments via online banking, or you can pay by cash or Standing Order. If paying by cash, please make sure you receive a receipt as proof of payment. I do not accept cheques.
- Maries childminding is listed with our Local Authority (Newcastle City Council) as an approved provider for government funding and has agreed to meet the conditions of the Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities. Government funding is intended to deliver 15 or 30 hours a week of childcare. It is not intended to cover the cost of meals, snacks, other consumables, additional hours or services.
- Working parents must obtain their 'Eligibility Code' from the HMRC website: <https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/eligibility-checker> before the start of the claim period that they wish their child to receive government funding. For children on 3 to 4 year 15 hours funding or 2 year old funding for families receiving additional support 15 hours – eligibility will be checked by childminder. Maries childminding will in plenty of time, contact parents with details of how to claim any funding they are or may be entitled to.
- I will work with parents to ensure that as far as possible the hours/sessions that can be taken as funded are convenient for parents' working hours.
- Funding agreement forms are to be signed by both parents and myself for each term.
- Any changes parents want regarding funded hours must be given in plenty of notice. Example stopping funding, decreasing or increasing hours. Sharing funding with another provider.

- Maries childminding attends toddler groups, this is an extra cost to the childminder. However parents do not have to make a contribution towards this and is provided free as part of my service.
- Any educational outings no charge is made to parents, again this is provided as part of my service for free.
- I do not charge a deposit

Summary

Free entitlement hours – 15-30 hours a week are offered for children aged 9 months -5 years who meet the criteria. This funded care is offered 38 weeks a year term time only, not stretched. It can be used for full day care and/or wraparound care.

Voluntary paid hours – The only other hours to be paid are any extra hours attending on top of funding, or for those who are not eligible. This is at £5 per hour.

Voluntary food – No meals other than snacks are provided by the childminder – this is at no cost. Parents must bring their own packed lunches/meals for children who are staying full days.

Voluntary consumables – No charge for consumables, parents are to provide their own children's nappies, wipes and creams.

Voluntary activities – No charge for any additional activities which may occur a small fee, the childminder provides this all free as part of their service. (For example toddler groups)

Tax free childcare/voucher schemes – On top of funding any additional hours used by parents can also pay through these schemes. All information on how to access these services is provided to new and existing parents.

All families have fair access regardless of background, available places are offered to all. Funded or fee paying, the same high level of care provided applies and rights.

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) provides additional funding to providers to support the quality of early education for eligible children taking up early education and childcare entitlements. The Disability Access Fund (DAF) supports eligible, disabled children's access to the entitlements.

This policy was adopted by Maries Childminding

Date 28/11/25

Signed M Lucas

To be reviewed annually or sooner if any matters arise.