

Terms & Conditions of Early Years Funding

Circus Day Nursery currently accepts and facilitates Early Years Funding within its setting for working parents, providing high-quality Early Years education for all eligible children.

At Circus Day Nursery childcare, we offer Early Years Funding on a stretched basis only. This means 570 hours per year (universal offering) or 1,140 hours per year (extended hours for working parents only, subject to current government policy). This ensures budget consistency, as the funding will remain the same on your invoice, with the only change reflecting a four- or five-week month.

Funding covers EYFS childcare and optional consumables charge for funded sessions. During a funded session, a child uses government-funded hours, and parents pay an agreed consumables rate.

Our agreed consumable charge includes:

- **Food Charges:** All formulas, baby food, meals, snacks, and drinks are served during nursery day. This includes breakfast, a mid-morning snack, a two-course, on-site, healthy lunch prepared by two qualified chefs, a mid-afternoon snack, healthy afternoon tea, and birthday cakes freshly made for each child/ren to enjoy.
- **Non-Food Consumable Charges:** Any nappies, wipes, and creams required throughout the day (the Early Years setting supplies branded, high-quality products), as well as other disposables. Quality children's high-factor sun creams/outdoor waterproofs/Calpol/medications as required.
- **Specialist activities:** Include the use of a specialist garden for extended learning, cooking, languages, yoga, off-site visits and trips, educational outings, and animal care, among others. (Please see our timetable for enhanced daily activities)

These services are included in the private Early Years fees for all children outside of government-funded hours. While the government funding does not cover consumables, it also does not cover many additional costs we face as a private business. Although we are fortunate to be housed in a historic Regency building, consideration must be given to this beautiful "house of interest" with its extensive gardens in a conservation area, which also incurs specific costs.

We operate an award-winning, five-star, full-service healthy eating programme. Two qualified chefs prepare freshly cooked meals daily, accommodating special dietary requirements and allergies. However, due to severe allergies, we cannot accept home-packed lunches to ensure the safety of those children. We can accept pre-packed meals with clearly listed ingredients. These must be checked, and a parent disclaimer form must be signed each time external food is brought onto the premises, in accordance with our health, safety, and food hygiene policies, and to satisfy our insurance requirements.

This form will be sent to you by email for printing and must be returned each time food is brought into the setting. It needs a wet signature and the current date, which will be recorded and kept on file. All pre-packaged foods must comply with our strict food policy.

Your Options

We understand that some parents may wish to opt out of elective charges. However, due to the nature of our setting, we must adhere to a strict policy regarding external food brought into the setting for the following reasons:

- **Allergy Risks:** We recognise the importance of providing a safe environment for all children, especially those with severe allergies. If external food is brought into our setting, we cannot guarantee safety. Therefore, we encourage you to review our food policy. This policy is based on comprehensive health and safety assessments and outlines the necessary measures to protect the well-being of every child in our care. Your cooperation in following these guidelines is vital for safeguarding our children. **We currently have children who have severe allergies; therefore, we must adhere to this strict policy.**

- **Storage limitations** — We are unable to safely and separately store packed lunches that contain allergen-sensitive foods, and we do not have additional storage space. Therefore, you would need to drop off your child's meal in a suitable temperature-controlled cooler bag at the beginning of each session.

- **Quality and consistency**—We employ professional chefs to ensure that all children have access to fresh, nutritious meals every day. Our daily allergen management and risk assessment protocols are also in place.

Early Years Foundation Stage and curriculum

If you choose to opt out, your child will still participate in activities that meet EYFS standards. However, as a dedicated, quality-focused setting, we are committed to exceeding expectations by offering enriched activities that go beyond these requirements. This guarantees your child the very best early childhood experience. We hope you recognise the advantages of our setting, the reasons you chose it, and the wide range of activities and facilities available.

We are currently offering funded hours across our opening hours and are not restricting any of the selected hours. There are no artificial breaks in funded hours; they run throughout the day, based on your eligibility.

If the above is not suitable for your child's learning needs, consider exploring alternative childcare options that better suit your requirements. Please note that you may provide notice as outlined in your contract with us to ensure a smooth transition. Your satisfaction and peace of mind remain our priorities.

Our current charge for the agreed consumables across all age groups is £2.60 per funded hour, with a session defined as a five-hour booking in the morning or the afternoon. We do not split sessions; we offer AM/PM or a full day in line with our policy.

Below are the fee structures per session:

Under 30 months

Food and drinks: Breakfast, snacks, hot lunches, puddings, afternoon teas, birthday cakes/cultural celebrations and all drinks

Non-food consumables: Suncreams, medications, nappies, wipes, disposables

Activities: Enriched activities and experience package

Over 30 months

Food and drinks: Breakfast, snacks, hot lunches, puddings, afternoon teas, birthday cakes/cultural celebrations, and all drinks

Non-food consumables: Suncreams, medications, outdoor rainwear

Activities: Enriched activities and experience package

Government Funded Hours

Under 30 months	Hourly rate	Over 30 months	Hourly rate
Government Funded Hours	£0.00	Government Funded Hours	£0.00
Food and Drinks consumable	£1.15	Food and Drink Consumable	£1.35
Non food consumables	£0.62	Non Food Consumables	£0.21
Enriched activities and events	£0.83	Enriched activities and events	£1.04

If you *decide to opt out of the non-consumable charge*, it will apply for the entire month, and we will need you to complete a non-consumable form each month.

This form must be completed and returned to Circus Day Nursery by the 20th of each month, coinciding with invoice issuance.

Invoices

Your invoices will be broken down each month as follows. Please note that some months have 4 weeks, while others have 5, resulting in some fluctuations in the amounts.

Entitlement Hours displayed as £0.00

Consumable charges at agreed rate

Additional private paid hours according to our stated fees above

Please note:

Any additional hours outside government-funded hours are charged at the private fee rate and fully inclusive of everything.

Fees will be reviewed annually as part of our regular review process and may be adjusted accordingly. If an increase is necessary, parents and carers will be given one month's notice, as set out in our Terms and Conditions.

Parental Declaration: For extended funding, it is the parent's responsibility to obtain an eligibility code for extended hours; without this code, a child will not be eligible for external funding. I understand that, as a parent or guardian, I must reconfirm the code every three months. I authorise the sharing of my eligibility code, National Insurance Number, and my child's date of birth with Gloucestershire County Council to verify my entitlement. If I overclaim with another setting, I will be charged and must pay for any additional hours. Should my work circumstances change, I will inform the setting as soon as possible.

I have read, understood, and agree to the terms and conditions of Circus Day Nursery set out above, and I have signed the Circus Day Nursery Terms and Conditions, which form part of this agreement.