



**Funded  
Hours  
Consumables  
& Food  
Charges**

**April 2025**



# Your Funded Nursery Hours

From April 2025, government guidance requires nurseries offering funded places to clearly break down any charges for funded hours. At Little Raccoons Day Nursery, we have always been transparent about what we offer, and this information is published on our fees structure.

This document explains what is included in your government funding, what we offer beyond that, and why we make a charge for those hours, including Consumables charge for Under 3's and Food charges for Over 3's.

Under the new legislation, we have to be transparent to parents regarding accessing their funded hours.

This document has been produced in March 2025 with the most recent Government Guidance in mind.



# What is covered by my Government Funding?

## Government Funding Cover the Basics

Government funding covers a basic Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) provision, which includes items such as:

- ✓ Small world figures, role play materials, puzzles, books, and basic craft supplies (continuous provision)
- ✓ Sand and water play.
- ✓ Loose parts and construction toys.
- ✓ A staffing level that meets minimum government ratios.

**Funding is provided for settings to offer a basic provision of EYFS that meets the statutory requirements.**



# What is outside of the scope of the funding?

As Government Funding is there to cover the basic provision of EYFS, there are certain things that are EXCLUDED from funding. Examples of these are:

- ✗ Meals, desserts and snacks.
- ✗ Extra activities such as walks, trips to the library, gardening, cooking, music, special events or extra-curricular activities.
- ✗ Additional high-quality resources such as sensory equipment, tools, baking supplies, or specialist educational sessions.
- ✗ Seasonal specialist events & fun days (Halloween, Christmas, Easter etc)

**We strongly believe that early years education should be rich, engaging, and full of real- world experiences. To go beyond the basics and provide the quality of care and learning we are proud of, we offer an enhanced provision—which costs more to deliver than government funding provides.**



# The reality of Nursery Funding

## An underfunded political problem

**Many nurseries are choosing to stop offering funded places because government funding does not cover the real cost of quality early years education.**

Nurseries have covered this cost by charging for all the additional things they do, over and above a “basic provision.”

We have always covered the cost of our enhanced provision by making a monthly charge called Consumables for Under 3's and Food charges for Over 3's to cover the charge of providing food & drinks.

**At Little Raccoons, we want to continue offering funded places, but this is only possible if parents understand why we charge monthly and to continue to pay for it, as they have been doing since we opened.**

Without this cost being met in this way, we may need to reduce the level of enrichment activities we provide or stop providing funded places in the future.

We appreciate that our parents have opted to send their child to Little Raccoons Day Nursery as they want the full nursery experience for their child. Charging a monthly fee over the funded hours to parents will allow us to maintain the exceptional care and learning experiences we are known for.



# Cost Breakdown

The Cost of the Charges (**as currently shown on invoices**)

Under 3's – Consumable Charge – £17.50 per week (£8.75 a week for half day)

Over 3's – Food Charge – £8.00 per funded day for Lunch – this includes: breakfast, morning snacks, lunch & dessert. £6.00 per funded day for Tea, this includes afternoon snacks, tea and early evening snacks.

These costs allow us to maintain the high standards of provision that families at Little Raccoons Day Nursery expect.