

Consumable Charges

As you are aware we now offer full funding from the very beginning of your journey with us. The government has made funding fully accessible from 9 months old for parents who are eligible for the working parent element of the funding. The Early Years funding is intended to cover the cost to deliver 15 or 30 hours of free, high quality, flexible childcare. While this is great news for parents and settings alike, unfortunately this funding does not cover consumables. Due to the recent and significant rise in the National Living wage and the increased cost of living and running costs from January 2026 we will be adding a small, voluntary consumable charge for parents to contribute towards these costs rather than increasing the hourly rate. This is something we have been putting off for a while and hasn't been an easy decision.

When coming to this decision we thought long and hard about how to do it fairly and without adding a big financial strain to our families. So going forward we will be introducing **a £1 per day for each day your child is in the setting**, this will help contribute to all the added extras we have to fund. As stated above in agreement with the Early Years Entitlement this contribution is only voluntary, however we really do appreciate all the support as it will help us to continue our high standard of practice.

So what are consumables? (This covers the basics and is not an extensive list)

- **Food** – we provide a healthy snack and milk in the morning. We also provide an array of sensory activities.
- **Self Care items** – we provide wet wipes to help clean the children up, we keep spare nappies and clothes in case a child needs them. Suncream is available in the spring and summer if children forgot there's.
- **Resources** – children are able to access craft activities daily, we use a lot of paper towels, toilet roll, and soap.
- **Weekly activities** – we pride ourselves on allowing the children to access an array of activities during the week. These include In2sport pe sessions, Harpbeeps, Forest Adventures, inviting people of the community into the setting, walks around the village just to name a few.
- **Cultural capital** – all things we learn regarding different cultures and lifestyles, we pride ourselves on being diverse and inclusive so providing these activities to help with that.

As per the Early Years Entitlement going forward we will continue to be completely transparent with our charges and what the extra consumables charge will include. We would like to stress that if you are in a position where this will impact your financial situation please discuss with the manager at the earliest opportunity. Going forward these charges will be added to the invoice as of 1 January 2026 unless you have spoken to the manager to opt out of this contribution.