

Consumables and enhanced provision charges 2026

You will be aware that there is a significant shortfall between the true cost of an offering a preschool place and what the government provides for entitlement funding. With National Minimum Wage increases, although well deserved, National Insurance charges and the current financial climate early years settings are facing unprecedented pressure upon budgets, which has resulted in financial instability and closures for a number of settings up and down the country including right here in Sutton.

The government has clarified that entitlement funding is intended just to cover the childcare element. It does not stretch to associated costs such as meals, other consumables, additional hours or extra services and therefore, families should expect to pay for these. However recently new statutory guidance has been issued which states that any such charges must not be a mandatory condition of a child's place and that parents should be able to access funded hours with no extra charges. Any charges for consumables and additional services or enhanced provision should be clearly broken down and published on the website. These changes have been implemented since September 2025.

This document explains what is included in your government funding, what we offer beyond that, and why we make a consumables charge.

What is covered by my funded hours?

Government funding is provided for settings to offer Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) provision, which meets the statutory requirements and includes items such as:

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

What is not covered?

Examples of things beyond the scope of the funding include:

- ✗ Meals, desserts and snacks.
- ✗ Nappies and wipes.
- ✗ Sun cream.
- ✗ Extra activities such as visits, gardening, cooking, music, yoga, Debutots, Playball or special events.
- ✗ Additional high-quality resources such as sensory equipment, woodwork tools, baking supplies, or specialist educational sessions.
- ✗ Enhanced ratios.

Play B C Preschool makes everyday a learning adventure. We offer teacher led education; high adult to child ratios, high quality resources and equipment and a rich programme of enriching activities many of which incur additional costs, either directly or logistically, such as adult fares for staff to accompany children or higher ratios to maintain safety. We strongly believe that early years education should be stimulating, engaging, and full of real-world experiences. To go beyond the basics and provide the quality of care and learning we are proud of, costs significantly more to deliver than government funding provides.

An analogy that has been given is that of a budget airline, the government is giving you the seat and you will still get to go to your desired destination, but if you want to sit next to a loved one, take luggage, have a meal and a drink you have to pay extra.

What does this mean for me?

Many settings are choosing not to offer funded places. This does not sit well with us because we are committed to access and inclusivity for children and families from all sections of the local community. It is our belief that every child deserves the best start in life and every parent deserves the peace of mind that comes with knowing their child is being not only cared for but educated, stimulated and enriched. However the reality is that it is not sustainable for us to offer all that we do on government funding alone. Without your continued support through the payment of consumables, we may need to reduce the level of enhancement that we provide, which may be the very thing that led you to choose Play B C.

Your options:

Please note we do not charge consumables to those families whose children meet the criteria for Early Years Pupil Premium up to 15 hours, those in receipt of EYPP and 30 hours funding will be asked to opt in at the 15 hour rate.

Opt in: you pay the consumables charge for your given funding allocation 15 or 30 hours and your child continues to access an enhanced early years experience full of hands-on learning and activities including but not limited to:

Meals as appropriate depending on hours.

Enrichment (a range of activities designed to enhance the curriculum, learning and development) such as: yoga, Playball, Debutots, gardening, woodwork, baking, STEAM

Trips: library, fire station, garden centre, bus, supermarket, restaurants, care home, park, duck feeding.

Seasonal events and crafts: Mother's Day, Father's Day, sports days, Easter, Diwali, Pancake Day, Christmas, leavers' trip etc.

We will provide a generic suncream, but nappies and wipes should be brought in from home.

Food packages	Weekly charge		
	Bursary (EYPP)*	15 hours	30 hours
Snack only Healthy snack - all ingredients, plates, utensils, cleaning (Morning and / or afternoon)	£0.00	£5.25	£10.50
Meals and snacks Hot two course lunch - all ingredients, serving, plates, utensils, cleaning plus snacks as above and a light tea for children attending extended days	£0.00	£12.75	£19.00

Enrichment packages	Weekly charge		
	Bursary (EYPP)*	15 hours	30 hours
Core enrichment Seasonal crafts and in-house activities (gardening, baking, Yoga, science experiments)	£0.00	£8.50	£11.50
Full enrichment Core enrichment plus: regular external providers (Debutots, Playball, trips), seasonal events, guest visits	£0.00	£11.50	£17.00

Bundles	Weekly charge		
	Bursary (EYPP)*	15 hours	30 hours
Snack only plus core enrichment	£0.00	£13.00	£21.50
Snack only plus full enrichment	£0.00	£15.75	£26.50
Meals and snacks plus core enrichment	£0.00	£19.50	£29.00
Meals and snacks plus full enrichment	£0.00	£21.00	£32.50

Opt out: you access funded hours and compliant EYFS provision as detailed above, with no additional charges. Your child will always receive a high standard of care, however:

⚠ Any packed lunches or snacks brought from home must comply with preschool food and allergy policy (please see below) if not a preschool alternative will be provided and charged, plus a £1.00 service fee. This also applies for forgotten snacks or meals.

⚠ Some experiences will not be available to them.

⚠ We are unable to guarantee availability of all session patterns for opt-out places, and session changes may apply depending on demand..

We hope you can see why we need to make a consumables charge and choose to opt in, so we can continue to operate as we always have done and provide the exceptional experiences that make our preschool so special. Please speak to us if you have any questions.

Termly commitment window: Opt in or out periods will be open between the 1st and 10th of August, December, and March. Once locked in there will be no changes permitted until the next window opens.

Consumables will be payable at the start of each month and remain payable in the case of absence, unless we are given written notice before the 10th of the preceding month ahead of invoicing. In this case a 50% credit will be applied. The weekly amount is due regardless of whether the full funded hours allocation is used or not.

Fees April 2026

Adhoc hour	£11.50
Breakfast Club 08:00 - 08:45	£8.63
Morning 08:45 - 11:45	£34.50
Lunch club 11:45 - 12:30 (Including two course hot lunch)	£12.63
Afternoon 12:30 - 15:30	£34.50
After Preschool Club 15:30 - 18:00	£28.75
Five hours 08:45 - 13:45	£57.50
Five hours 08:00 - 13:00 (under twos)	£57.50
Five hours 13:00 - 18:00 (under twos)	£57.50
Six hours 08:45 - 14:45	£69.00
School day 08:45 - 15:30	£77.63
Administration Fee (deducted from first invoice)	£40.00
Polo Shirt	£10.50
Sweatshirt	£12.75
Uniform bundle (Polo and Sweatshirt)	£21.00
Knitted hat	£5.25
Baseball / Legionnaire cap	£6.50
Backpack	£9.50
Charge for late collection (payable after five minutes)	£20.00

Play B C Preschool: Food and Allergy Policy 2025 (revised)

Aims

Play B C Preschool aims to make every day a learning adventure and the next best thing to family. Our food and allergy policy is grounded in our core values of:

- **Respect:** We honour each child's dietary, cultural, and medical needs.
- **Relationships:** We work in partnership with families to support healthy eating habits and safety.
- **Responsibility:** We promote informed food choices and a safe, inclusive environment for all children.

We are committed to providing nutritious meals, supporting allergy-safe practices, and educating children about healthy choices. Our meals reflect cultural diversity and avoid excessive sugar, salt, and artificial additives. All food served is age-appropriate and portion-controlled.

Because

The welfare of the children attending Play B C Preschool is paramount and we are committed to offering children healthy, nutritious and balanced meals and snacks which meet individual needs and requirements. We believe mealtimes should be social and enjoyable acknowledge the link between pupils' diets and their physical and emotional health. We know what pupils eat and drink with us is important and we appreciate the key role that we play in supporting pupils and their families to develop and maintain a healthy diet. We recognise the valuable role all preschool staff have in modelling good practice and helping to create an environment which supports a positive attitude to healthy lifestyles.

Context

This policy aligns with:

- The Childcare Act 2006 (amended 2018)
- The Children Act 1989 and 2004
- The Food Safety Act 1990
- The Food Information Regulations 2014
- Food Safety & Hygiene (England) Regulations 2016
- Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2024
- DfE Nutrition Guidance for EYFS 2025
- Eat Better Start Better voluntary guidelines

Responsibilities

We believe that mealtimes should be happy, social occasions for children and staff alike. We promote shared, enjoyable positive interactions at these times. We will ensure children's dietary requirements are adhered to and take all reasonably practical steps to ensure the children only eat safe, healthy, balanced and nutritious food in accordance with their individual beliefs and health requirements.

Allergen Management and Special Diets

- All meals and snacks provided by the preschool or sent from home **must include clear allergen information**.
- A **no nut policy** applies at all times, including hidden sources such as pesto and Nutella.
- Parents must disclose any allergies, intolerances, or special dietary needs prior to their child's start date.
- Where necessary, individual dietary risk assessments and care plans will be agreed with parents.
- Staff receive allergen awareness and food hygiene training (renewed every three years).
- All food and ingredients are clearly labelled, and children with allergies are supervised carefully at mealtimes.

Meals from home: Requirements and Restrictions

Parents who choose to opt out of meals and or snacks provided by Play B C Preschool must ensure that food brought from home meets the following standards:

- **Allergen declaration:** Each meal / snack must be accompanied by a completed and signed allergen form.
- **Labelling:** All food containers must be clearly labelled with the child's full name and the date.
- **Packaging:** Food must be packed with an **ice pack**. We cannot refrigerate home-provided meals due to space and safety limitations.
- **Prohibited items:**
 - Any nut-containing products
 - Sweets, chocolate, cakes, biscuits, pastries
 - Choking hazards (whole grapes, cherry tomatoes, popcorn, etc)
 - Food that requires heating or refrigeration
- **Permitted drinks:** Water or milk. Juice, flavoured water or squash is not permitted.
- **Nutrition standard:** Meals and snacks must follow our healthy eating guidelines, be balanced and suitable for a preschool-aged child.

Fallback policy: If a lunch or snack is forgotten, non-compliant, or lacks allergen documentation, a preschool alternative will be served. Parents will be charged **£4.00 for a lunch and / or £1.00 for a snack plus a £1:00 service fee**.

Meals from Play B C Preschool

We work with Zebedees to provide nutritious lunches that meet or exceed EYFS and DfE standards. Weekly menus with allergens are shared with families. All snacks and light teas are prepared in-house with careful attention to nutrition, oral health, and cultural inclusion.

- Fresh fruit and vegetables offered daily
- Starchy food provided at each snack
- No juice or sweet drinks provided

- Milk offered at snack time; water available at all times
- Breakfast cereals are low in sugar

Mealtimes at preschool

- Mealtimes are social, educational experiences in small groups.
- Staff model good eating habits and positive attitudes toward food.
- Children are encouraged to feed themselves and try new foods, but never forced.
- Children with restricted diets are included sensitively without being singled out.
- Seating is considered to reduce allergen risk and support peer interaction.

Food for play

- Any food used in sensory or cooking play is assessed for allergy risks.
- No nuts or high-risk allergens are used.
- Jelly and flour are prepared safely; food play is reused where possible to minimise waste.
- All food play activities are risk-assessed and supervised.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed annually and updated as needed in line with legal and guidance changes. Implementation is monitored through staff training, incident tracking, and family feedback.

This policy has been adopted by Play B C Preschool

Signed on behalf of the setting by:



Lead Teacher, Play B C Preschool

Date: July 2025

Review date: July 2026