



Additional Services & Consumables charges

At Sandcastles, a fee of **£2.10** is payable for each funded hour for children **accessing 3- and 4-year-old funding**.

This fee **does not apply** to children receiving **9-month, 1-year or 2-year-old funding**.

Why is there a fee?

Government and Local Authority funding covers the cost of childcare only. It does not include the additional items and services we provide each day, such as meals, snacks, nappies, or the enhanced activities and experiences that go beyond the basic statutory requirements.

The £2.10 per funded hour covers:

- **£1.50 – Meals & Snacks** - All meals and snacks prepared in-house (breakfast, lunch, tea, snacks), including catering for allergies and meeting Ofsted Healthy Eating requirements.
- **£0.30 – Non-Food Items** - Suncream, nappies, wipes, nappy sacks, and safe disposal.
- **£0.30 – Activities** – This includes the additional resources, equipment, and activities we provide that go beyond the standard Ofsted and EYFS requirements. These enhancements are designed to enrich children's experiences and offer opportunities above the minimum statutory framework, including activities that are not directly required for delivering the EYFS. These contributions also help support special events such as 'Stay & Play' sessions and our seasonal celebrations throughout the year (including Christmas, Easter, Summer, and Halloween).

Example of Monthly Costs

A 3-year-old attending 3 days a week (30 hours), receiving **22 funded hours per week** (11 Universal + 11 Working Families):

Item	Hours	Cost per Hour	Total
Funded Hours (free entitlement)	88	£0.00	£0.00
Extra Hours (paid)	32	£7.40	£236.80
Meals & Snacks	88	£1.50	£132.00
Non-Food Items	88	£0.30	£26.40
Activities	88	£0.30	£26.40
Total Monthly Cost			£421.60

Alternatives

- **Meals:** Instead of paying food charges, parents may collect their child for lunch/tea and return them afterwards, ensuring no allergens are consumed. (*Own food cannot be brought in due to Food Safety and Allergy policies – see our Food Safety Policy for details*).
- **If you are unable or unwilling to pay the Additional Services/Consumables charges:**
 - Arrange **weekly payments** or a **payment plan** to help with budgeting.
 - Use additional funding you may receive (e.g., **Deprivation Supplement** or **EYPP**) to cover the fee, where eligible.
 - Consider attending **free/fully funded sessions** with minimal extras (subject to availability). Currently, this is **1pm–4pm**, however session times may change each term and cannot be guaranteed in a specific pattern.

We will always work with you to help you understand which hours can be taken for free and which have extra charges, so you can make an informed choice for the option that works best for your family.

