



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** – Learning journey account, Suncream, nappies, wipes, nappy sacks.
- **£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 Weekly 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)	22	£0.00	£0.00
Meals & Snacks	22	£1.50	£33.00
Non-Food items	22	£0.30	£6.60
Activities	22	£0.30	£6.60
Additional Hours (paid)	8	£7.90	£63.20
Total Weekly Cost			£109.40

Alternatives

- **Meals and Consumables:** Instead of paying food and consumable charges, parents are allowed to provide their own food, nappies, wipes and suncream as an alternative, in line with our ‘*Food from Home and Consumables Policy*.’
- **Alternatively, if you are unable or unwilling to pay the Additional Services/Consumables charges, you can:**
 - 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.

