

Your Funded Nursery Hours

From April 2025, Government guidance requires nurseries offering funded services to clearly break down any charges for consumables and additional services or “Enhanced Provisions” as we call them. At Evergreen Lodge we have always been transparent about what we offer, and this information is provided and explained at point of show round and before a parent reserves a place for their child.

This document explains what is included in your government funding, what we offer beyond that and why we make an “enhanced provisions” charge.

Under the new legislation we must provide transparency to parents and an option to **“Opt Out”** of our enhanced provision charges if the parent only wants to access the funded hours (with no extras).

This document has been produced in April 2026, with the most recent Government Guidance in mind. If you would like anything explained further, please speak to the Business Manager

What is covered by my Government Funding?

Government Funding Covers 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

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 does the Government Funding not include?

What is outside of the scope of the funding?

As the 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
- Nappies, wipes, nappy bags, suncream, emergency medication (Calpol & Piriton), puddle suits etc
- IT package (parent communication app): access to learning journey, hardware for learning journey, staff time to complete
- Extra activities such as farm and village walks, gardening, cooking, forest school, music, special events, national day celebrations, animal encounters, parent partnership and extra-curricular activities
- Additional high-quality resources such as sensory equipment, woodwork tools, baking supplies or specialist educational sessions

We strongly believe that our early years education system should be rich, engaging, and full of real-world experiences. We want to benefit from our beautiful location and natural surroundings. To go beyond the basics and provide the quality of care and learning we focussed on when we set up our provision and continue to be proud of, we offer an enhanced provision – which costs more than government funding provides.

The reality of Nursery Funding

An underfunded political problem

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

Historically, settings 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 Provisions” by making a monthly charge, which was viewed on your invoice as “Voluntary Enhanced Provision Charges.” This has allowed us to provide our funded children with a rich curriculum full of learning opportunities and experiences and we continue to extend these experiences as we grow.

At Evergreen Lodge we want to continue offering funded places, but this is only possible if parents understand why we make a monthly enhanced provisions charge and subsequently opt in to continue to pay 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 children to Evergreen Lodge, as they want the “full home from home comfort, combined with outdoor adventure” experience for their child. You share our vision of taking full advantage of our beautiful location and natural surroundings, creating many enhanced learning opportunities something referred to by Ofsted as “Cultural Capital”. Charging an enhanced provisions fee allows us to maintain the exceptional care and learning experiences we are now known for.

Your Options

Action Required!

(this is only required if your child is a new starter)

Parent Action – Opt-In or Opt-Out

The Consumables Charge & Enhanced Provision

We have always provided an enriched early years' experience, full of hands-on learning and exciting activities. For those parents who are already accessing funded hours, you would have seen “Voluntary Enhanced Provisions” charge on your invoice each month

Government directive tells us that we must now make this an optional charge to parents. Parents can choose to Opt-In to the charge or Opt-Out. If parents opt out, we must provide an alternative to you, which would enable you to access your funded hours only, with no additional charge required.

From April 2026 our invoices will look slightly different as we are now required to break down our voluntary enhanced provision charges, rather than as a charge per funded hour, as we were previously doing.

Your choice

Opt-In – Gold Package:



All home-cooked, fresh meals and snacks, incl. breakfast, lunch, dinner, dessert, healthy snack cafe (depending on sessions attended)



Consumables including nappies, wipes, teethingers, nappy sacks, flannels, Calpol, Piriton, puddle suits and suncream



Enrichment programmes, such as Moo Music, Forest School Sessions (in house and outsourced), Dance and Drama, Kimbles, Yoga, Sports sessions, Baking Club, Gardening Club / allotment access and upkeep, Bus of Imagination, combined activities in partnership with Snarestone Primary School, village walks & park visits, visitors (occupations, show and tell), animal encounters



Additional learning resources such as sensory equipment, baking supplies, art materials, and national day celebrations



Seasonal Specialist Events and family partnership activities such as Stay and Play, Parent progress meeting, Christmas Parties, Halloween, Mothers & Father's Day, Graduation, birthday celebrations



Animal interactions, including guinea pigs, hatching programmes, walks around site (new exciting farm setting hopefully coming soon to our location), life cycles.



Parent App – observations, direct communication, progress reports, daily diary entries

Opt Out – Silver Package:

Parents who opt-out will receive:

- ✓ Access to the basic EYFS provision, as funded by the government
- ✓ Their funded hours free of charge

However, opting out means:

- Parents must provide all meals and snacks for their child, in line with our nutrition and mealtimes policy. This currently means that a child will need to be taken home for meals and snacks, or our [Nutrition and Mealtime](#) is strictly followed by parents when providing food. Due to several severe allergies currently within our setting, and insurance restrictions, we wish to avoid parents sending in packed lunches, if possible. We cannot safely store these at the temperatures recommended by EHO and we cannot supply staff to rigorously check the contents. Please refer to this policy for further information on acceptable preparation etc.
- Parents must supply their own consumables, including nappies, wipes, nappy bags, puddle suits and suncream.
- Some enhanced provision experiences may not be included, but we will always ensure a high standard of care as an alternative
- Basic funded only sessions for opt-out families will be arranged (Monday and Friday sessions only, confirmed at the beginning of each term, subject to availability). No food, care package or enhanced activities will be supplied. These will be based on availability, in line with our admissions policy.

The Enhanced Provision Charge

Cost Breakdown (per session):

Breakdown of voluntary enhanced provision charges for a completely all-inclusive place, to include all listed on Page 11 (included but not restricted to):

Meals: Breakfast: £2.50, Snack: £2.00, 2-course homecooked lunch: £5.00, Tea: £3.50

Additional Services / Activities: £9.50 (full day), £6.00 (reduced session)

Care package: £2.50 / session

Session Comparison

<i>Session</i>	<i>Non-funded fees</i>	<i>Funded session - Gold Package</i>
10-hour full day	£84.00	£25.00
7.5-hour session (taken over 3 full days attendance) (This attendance pattern provides flexibility around drop off and collection times due to the private hourly rate being applied at the beginning and end of the day)		£18.00

Our private hourly charge is applicable for hours attended in addition to the funded hours.

These costs allow us to maintain the high standards of provision that families of Evergreen Lodge Nursery & Preschool expect.

Next Steps

What are my options?

All parents / carers of new starters are requested to complete an electronic form (link below), advising us on whether they wish to opt-in or opt-out of these enhanced provision / consumable charges. Please only do this once you have read and understood the information contained in this document. Should you require any further clarification, please contact Rachel Bird, Business Manager.

Option 1 – Opt In – Our Gold Package:

Your child will fully access all meals, consumables and enrichment activities, just as they do now. The enhanced provision charge is currently:

Meals: Breakfast: £2.50, Snack: £2.00, 2-course homecooked lunch: £5.00, Tea: £3.50

Additional Services / Activities: £9.50 (full day), £6.00 (reduced session)

Care package: £2.50 / session

Option 2 – Opt Out – Our Silver Package:

Your child will receive their funded hours free of charge (and a basic EYFS provision), but you will need to make arrangements for all meals (following our nutrition and mealtimes policy) and consumables yourself. Your child will be offered a suitable alternative EYFS provision as per the government policy but will not be able to access the full Evergreen Lodge provision. We will discuss this further with you should you wish to opt-out.

Make your Choice here

What happens next?

If you opt-in, your child will have full access to the Evergreen Lodge experience, including the enrichment programmes.

If you opt-out, we will discuss how we can accommodate your child's needs and schedule their funded hours based on our current offer and availability, ensuring that they have full access to the basic EYFS provision. You will not be able to add additional hours onto your child's basic entitlement.

Many nurseries are choosing to stop offering funded places because the funding does not cover the true cost of delivering early years education. At Evergreen Lodge we want to continue offering funded places, but this is only possible with the support of our families. In some cases, the funding we receive for our children is up to £2.75 per hour less than our standard charge.

We hope that our parents and carers see the value in our "Enhanced Provisions" charge and choose to opt-in so we can continue to operate based on our vision and values and continue to give us the flexibility to provide the exceptional experiences that make our setting special.

Could parents of new starters please complete your Opt-In / Opt-Out requirement as soon as possible?

Thank you for your ongoing support 