



Morpeth Explorers Pricing Policy April 2026-2027

There are many different ways nurseries calculate their fees. The Explorers method is explained below to ensure that all parents and carers fully understand what they will be charged.

Overview

Explorers accepts the majority forms of Early Years Funding following the guidance on how this can be applied in setting. In addition to the funded hours, you may wish to access additional services which are calculated daily, for example additional hours that are charged per hour of childcare and food. These charges are calculated a month in advance and must be paid for in full and in advance. We ask that invoices for the month ahead are paid **by the 28th of each month**.

We calculate fees on an annual basis on the contract days/sessions your child attends for so that each invoice is the same across the year. If you wish for their attendance to change at all, the request must be put into writing to admin@explorersonline.co.uk a minimum of a month in advance of the change and be a permanent change. An updated Northumberland County Council Funding Declaration form must be completed. To end the childcare contract with Explorers we require a full terms notice.

Children Under 2

We offer 2 different sessions for children under 2 which are stretched across 50 weeks of the year for children accessing Early Years Entitlement (EYE):

- Full days – 10h at £8.00 per hour from 7.30am until 5.30pm
- Part days - 6h at £9.00 per hour from 9am until 3pm

Food for Children Under 2

Food is charged as a fixed amount per day:

- Full days – £6 (Breakfast, Morning Snack, Lunch with dessert, afternoon snack, Evening Meal)
- Part days - £3 (Mid Morning Snack, Lunch with dessert and afternoon snack)

Children Aged 2 plus

We offer 2 different sessions for children aged 2 to 3 which are stretched across 50 weeks of the year for children accessing Early Years Entitlement (EYE):

- Full days – 10h at £8.00 per hour from 7.30am until 5.30pm
- Part days - 6h at £9.00 per hour from 9.00am until 3pm



Food for Children Aged 2 plus

Food is charged as a fixed amount per day:

- Full days – £6 (Breakfast, Morning Snack, Lunch with dessert, afternoon snack, Evening Meal)
- Part days - £3 (Mid Morning Snack, Lunch with dessert and afternoon snack)

Late Collection Charge

For the safety and wellbeing of all children, we would like to remind parents and carers that a late collection fee applies. A charge of £10 for every 10 minutes (rounded up) will be added to invoices when a child is collected after the end of their booked session.

Minimum Attendance

Our minimum Attendance for all age groups is 2 sessions a week. If children are absent from a booked session, we are required to contact parents to ask the reason for non-attendance. This is to ensure a child's wellbeing and in line with statutory requirements.

Government Funding

Funding is offered over 50 weeks for most of the funding streams. This means that the amount of funding per week is stretched across all the weeks in the year (30h per week is reduced 22.8h and 15h to 11.4). Children accessing Early Learning for Two Year Olds funding are able to access this term time only.

Early Learning for Two Year Olds

Children who are accessing the governments 'Early Learning for Two Year Old' Funding (Previously Disadvantaged 2YO) can do so term-time only. Optional nursery food can be booked and paid for in advance, or a nutritionally compliant packed lunch may be provided from home as an alternative. If the packed lunch is not considered to comply with government guidelines and provided 'ready to eat' parents/carers will be notified and asked to make other arrangements. All additional hours needed will be booked and paid for in advance at the standard rate.



Children with additional needs

If additional staffing or a 1:1 is required for a child outside of EYE, this will incur an additional hourly charge which will be calculated on the hours needed and the qualifications of the member of staff required. If your child is eligible for additional funding, this will be explored by our team.

How to apply for a funding code

Parents and carers are responsible for applying for funding codes. Without the code Explorers is unable to verify if there are any funds available to access for your child. Codes must be obtained by applying to <https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/>

How does government funding work at Explorers?

Funded hours from the government are paid for 38 weeks of the year. At Explorers, we stretch this funding over 50 weeks of the year, offering childcare all year around apart from when we close over the two weeks over Christmas and New Year along with Bank Holidays.

If your EYE funded session falls on a bank holiday you can request for the session to be taken on an alternate day according to our availability. This will ensure we have the appropriate staffing necessary for the extra attendees. We do not currently charge families for the two weeks of the year that we choose to close. If your child attends on a Bank holiday, they are payable in order to have your child's place on that day for the rest of the year.

When your child becomes eligible for their government funding depends on when their funding code becomes valid with Northumberland County Council. This is outside of our control at Explorers. Funding codes must be validated prior to the beginning of the term you would like your child to begin at Explorers.

Funding codes can be checked once Explorers receive completed Parent/Carer Declaration Forms. These forms must be fully completed digitally, prior to each term to secure funding for that term. Any information missing from the form can result in no funding being allocated, this includes providing proof of your child's date of birth to a member of staff at your Explorers setting. Children with existing codes must also renew their funding declaration form prior to the beginning of term.



Explorers termly cut of dates for funding applications:

Autumn Term	31 st August
Spring Term	31 st December
Summer Term	31 st March

Any families only wishing to use their child's government funding cannot start until the term that funding begins.

3 and 4 year old funded entitlement

A universal 15 hours is available for all children the term after the 3rd birthday. Working families will be able to access 30 hours if they meet the eligibility criteria.

2 year old funded entitlement

Children age 2 from disadvantaged families access 15 hours funding if they meet the eligibility criteria. From September 2025, children aged 2 by the date designated by Northumberland County Council each year (usually around 31st of August) are eligible through the working families criteria will get 30 hours funded childcare.

9 month old entitlement

Eligible children age 9 months or over by the date designated by Northumberland County Council each year (usually around 31st of August).

Reconfirmation

Funding codes must be revalidated every three months to ensure that the extended hours for working families can be claimed. If you are unable to validate your code the funded hours cannot be claimed and funding will cease. This is the responsibility of the parent/carer.

Food

Early Years Entitlement (EYE) Funded hours are free at the point of delivery, but this does not cover the provision of food. A food charge is applied to cover the cost of ingredients and the team who prepare our high-quality, homemade lunches and teas. All meals are freshly made using seasonal vegetarian and pescatarian ingredients, with full consideration for individual dietary requirements. This charge also includes the preparation and provision of all nursery meals and snacks. If you do not want Explorers to provide your food, the alternative is to prepare and bring in each day an allergen compliant packed breakfast/snacks/lunch/tea. Packed meals must comply with the governments nutrition guidance and all meals from home must be 'ready to eat' and not require any additional intervention from Explorers staff, this including heating anything up.



Additional Hours

We deduct the number of government funded hours from your total number of hours used, for example, if you attend for 22h and have 11h of funding, you pay for 11h of additional funding. Any hours above your funding is charged at our standard rate. Children who attend and use government funding for a mix of full days and part days pay for additional hours at the part day rate. Government guidance states that EYE funding can only be claimed in maximum blocks of 10 hours.

Full & Part Day Free Hour Priorities

Free hours are used against full day sessions first and then part days.

Bank Holidays

Funded hours are prioritised for use on days not allocated as Bank Holidays in a week.

Registration Deposit

We offer 3 types of registration fee to secure your child's space.

- a) £100 fully refundable. £100 will be taken off your first invoice if you choose to opt out of booking your child in for settling in sessions.
- b) £100 non-refundable which includes 2 settling in sessions in setting.
- c) 'Disadvantaged' and 'funding only' children - Children only accessing free hours are not required to pay a registration deposit but they may not start settling in sessions until after their funding begins.

All registration fees are non-refundable if you decide not to take a place.



Working Family 30 Hour Funding Days and Sessions Calculator:

This monthly cost includes food and is calculated based on 38 weeks of 30 hour funding spread over 50 weeks of the year:

	Full Days	0	1	2	3	4	5
Part Days							
0		NA	NA	£50.00	£315.00	£673.33	£1,031.67
1		NA	£37.50	£182.50	£552.50	£910.83	NA
2		£25	£50.00	£420.00	£790.00	NA	NA
3		£37.50	£257.50	£657.50	NA	NA	NA
4		£95.00	£495.00	NA	NA	NA	NA
5		£332.50	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

15 Hour Funding Days and Sessions Calculator:

This monthly cost includes food and is calculated based on 38 weeks of 15 hour funding spread over 50 weeks of the year:

	Full Days	0	1	2	3	4	5
Part Days							
0		NA	NA	£336.67	£695.00	£1,053.33	£1,411.67
1		NA	£210.00	£574.17	£932.50	£1,290.83	NA
2		£47.50	£447.50	£811.67	£1,170.00	NA	NA
3		£285.00	£685.00	£1,049.17	NA	NA	NA
4		£522.50	£922.50	NA	NA	NA	NA
5		£760.00	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

How to use this calculator:

Select the number of Full Days you wish for your child to attend (along the top of the table), then move down the rows to select the number of additional part days you wish for them to attend (using the column to the left, then follow down in the Full Day column you wish to add.