

HOW DO I CALCULATE FEES AND ENSURE THAT THE FREE EARLY YEARS ENTITLEMENT REMAINS FREE TO ALL PARENTS?

No charge can be made to parents in respect of the funded entitlement hours. A setting's normal charges can apply in respect of any additional provision that a parent arranges to purchase. For example: if a child attends a setting from 9am to 3pm, and is taking up 3 hours of their entitlement, a setting may only charge at it's hourly rate for the remaining 3 hours.

Please note: It is not permissible, under the rules outlined in the Code of Practice for Local Authorities on the Delivery of Free Early Years Provision for Three and Four Year Olds, to deduct the Early Years Entitlement from the daily rate and then charge the parent the remaining sum. No charge whatsoever can be made in respect of the funded hours.

The entitlement will be offered flexibly where possible, which will mean that up to six hours a day could be taken as the Early Years Entitlement. Any additional hours purchased by the parent could then be charged at the setting's hourly rate.

Providers involved in the pilot year for the extension to the flexibly delivery of 15 hours, tended to introduced hourly rates. In order to be able to continue to make a discounted charge to parents of full time children, some providers are charging a reduced hourly rate to parents who are purchasing more than 15 hours of care per week in addition to their free Early Years Entitlement.

If a lunch period falls during the hours of the free entitlement take-up, providers are allowed to charge parents for a hot meal, should they wish to access it. A parent must always be given the option of providing a packed lunch and thus incur no charge, unless the meal can be subsidised in agreement with parents.
