

Fees and Funding Guide

2025/26

At Tinkers and Tribe, we believe in open communication with all of our parents, carers and staff. Therefore, this structure will assist everyone to understand our fees.

Opening times: We operate for 51 weeks per year, closing on bank holidays and over the Christmas period. We are open Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm.

Pricing: Fees are payable monthly in arrears and increased annually in the month of April. Any changes to current rates will be advised in writing, at least one month in advance. Our fees do not include our optional forest school sessions. Optional early starts and extra sessions should be booked via Blossoms and will be added onto your monthly invoice.

How we calculate our fees

At Tinkers and Tribe we use an “actuals” method of calculating fees. This means you’ll be billed each month based on the actual days of attendance, rather than the fixed monthly fee used by other settings. Your invoice will be itemised so you can easily see how your bill has been calculated.

With the “actuals” method, your invoice amount will vary each month depending on the number of bank holidays, closure days and the number of days your child attended the setting that month. While some months may be more expensive than others, the total amount paid over the course of the year will remain consistent with the annual billing approach used by some other settings.

Illness/absence: No refund will be given in the event of a child’s absence due to illness, holiday, or any other reason.

Christmas Closure: We are closed for our Christmas break and staff training from 1pm on 24th December 2025. We reopen on Monday 5th January 2026. You will not be charged during this Christmas closure period, however, will be charged for a full day on the 24th.

Unplanned closures: Should the setting be unable to open due to bad weather or any other unforeseen circumstances, parents will not be charged for the session. Should closure need to take place part way through a session, a refund will not be given in this instance.

Bank Holidays: You will not be charged for bank holiday closures

May 2026 Adjustment: Due to how funding is allocated in the Summer Term 2026, we will receive funding for Monday 4th May (This is a Bank Holiday and we are closed). Children who usually attend on this Monday if we were open will be offered a funded make-up session between 8am and 2pm on Tuesday 25th August 2026.

Capped Funding: Funded childcare is available for 48 weeks of the year. Funded days can be viewed here. https://www.kelsi.org.uk/__data/assets/excel_doc/0015/200760/2025-26-Stretched-Sample-Calendar_Updated-March-2025.xlsx

There are 9.5 days in the year we are not able to offer funded care on. Families will be charged privately for these days. See package 5 for our private care fee. The days are as follows:

December 2025:

- Monday 22nd
- Tuesday 23rd
- Wednesday 24th (morning only)

April 2026:

- Tuesday 7th
- Wednesday 8th
- Thursday 9th

August 2026:

- Tuesday 25th
- Wednesday 26th
- Thursday 27th
- Friday 28th

Late pick up: Children must be collected promptly at the end of a session/day. Should a parent fail to collect their child within 15 minutes of the session/day end, a late collection fee of £25 will be charged. After this, an additional £25 will be charged every 30 minutes.

Late Payments: Fees are due by the 5th of each month. If payment has not been received by the 10th of the month, a late payment fee of £50 will be applied. An additional charge of £100 will be added on the 10th of each subsequent month while any outstanding balance remains, along with applicable interest, until fees are paid in full. If you are experiencing financial hardship, please speak in confidence with our Head Office staff at info@tinkersandtribe.co.uk so that alternative payment arrangements can be discussed. If fees remain unpaid without prior negotiation, we may be left with no alternative but to withdraw your child's place in line with our Fee Agreement. Children in receipt of Free Early Education will continue to access their funded hours only.

Deposits: When securing a space for your child, we ask for a deposit equivalent to the cost of one weeks' private care fees upon acceptance of your child's place. Deposit amounts are capped at £200 and are refundable when your child leaves Tinkers and Tribe.

If you choose to withdraw your child's space, then the deposit will be kept by *Tribe Incorporated Ltd*. For families accessing funded care hours only your deposit will be credited to your account within a month of your child's start date.

Retainer fees: A retainer will be charged if a childcare place is available, but the child's parent does not want to take the place until sometime into the future. If this period exceeds 4 weeks, then a retainer will be paid to reserve the space until the desired start date. This retainer will be charged 50% of the private daily charge. This retainer is for *Tribe Incorporated Ltd* to keep. Our registers run from September to September, thus a September start date will only require a deposit.

Discounts: A 5% sibling discount will be applied to the invoice of the youngest child's fees, provided both children are privately enrolled and not receiving any government funded hours.

Meals, snacks, formula, and nappies: Please see package options for details

Notice Periods & End Dates: A full terms notice period is required. Here are a list of dates for your reference.

End date: 31st December 2025 – notice must be given before **1st September 2025**

End date: 19th April 2026 – notice must be given before **1st January 2026** **End**

date: 31st August 2026 – notice must be given before **1st April 2026**

Funding and fees will continue until the end of the relevant term. If notice is given late, families will be charged privately for the following term. Exceptions can be made if the space is filled by another child.

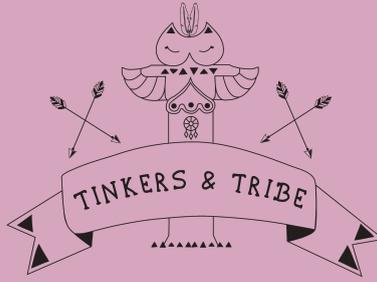
Forest School Sessions: Please note that forest school sessions are an optional and are an additional extra cost.

Payment methods: At Tinkers and Tribe, we charge for items that are not included in the government funded scheme. Invoices can be settled by BACS payment or the government tax free childcare account. Please include either the invoice number or your child's surname in the reference of every payment. We can also accept payments via an employer's benefit scheme. Please contact info@tinkersandtribe.co.uk for more information.

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Government Funded Childcare

Understanding childcare funding can be tricky, but we're here to make it easier. We offer our funded care over 47 weeks of the year, providing eligible families with up to 24 hours of funded childcare per week. Eligibility will depend on whether you're working, your income and your immigration status. If you claim certain benefits and your child is over 2 years of age, you may be eligible for funded childcare under a separate scheme.

Our Funding Packages

At Tinkers and Tribe, you can choose a childcare package that suits your family's needs. Funded childcare hours can be used on any day of the week. We offer our funded childcare between the hours of 8am -2pm. Childcare used after 2pm is not covered by the Government scheme and is privately charged. Families can use their tax free childcare account to pay for any private childcare they access and for their elected fee. It's important to note that government funding is not intended to cover the full cost of childcare. For example, it does not cover the cost of consumables such as food and nappies. We ask parents to pay for these consumables and this is called an elected fee.

What is an Elected Fee? This is a voluntary cost that a parent pays for the consumable items a child uses during government funded hours (8am-2pm). The elected fee covers items such as nappies, wipes, creams, milk, formula, disposable aprons, gloves, snacks and hot meals. Our daily consumable fee is £8.53 for 0-24 months and £7.16 for 25months+. If you do choose to opt out from the elected fee, please understand that your child will not benefit from the consumables listed.

What is a Privately Funded Fee? This fee is charged for the hours between 2pm-6pm, this covers our settings operational expenses, staffing and consumables.

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Package Options

Package 1: Childcare between the hours of **8-2pm** only. This is subject to a daily elected fee for consumables. See breakdown below. With this package, families will benefit from all consumables, including unlimited nappies, wipes, creams, milk, formula, disposable aprons, gloves, three nutritious and balanced meals per day (NHS Startwell and Nutritionist accredited menus), and a range of snacks and drinks.

Package 2: Childcare between the hours of **8-2pm** only. Parents opting for this package, will not pay an elective fee, but must provide their child with consumables, including nappies, wipes, creams, milk, formula, disposable aprons, gloves, snacks and hot meals. We regret to inform you that we cannot allow pack lunches and only home-prepared hot meals will be permitted. This decision has been made after careful consideration and is based on several important factors. Please contact us if you wish to discuss this further.

Package 3: Childcare between the hours of **8am-6pm** using a combination of government funded hours and privately funded hour. In this package, children will receive government funded childcare between the hours of 8-2pm. After 2pm, the cost of childcare is privately funded. Fees for the privately funded hours are tiered to reflect the higher staff-to-child ratios required for younger children. With this package, families will pay the elected fee and benefit from all consumables, including unlimited nappies, wipes, creams, milk, formula, disposable aprons, gloves, three nutritious and balanced meals per day (NHS Startwell and Nutritionist accredited menus), and a range of snacks and drinks.

Package 4: Childcare between the hours of **8am-6pm** using a combination of government funded hours and privately funded hours. In this package, children will receive government funded childcare between the hours of 8-2pm. After 2pm, the cost of childcare is privately funded. Fees for the privately funded hours are tiered to reflect the higher staff-to-child ratios required for younger children. With this package, families will not pay the elected fee and will not benefit from any consumables. If you chose this package, we regret to inform you that we cannot allow pack lunches and only home prepared hot meals will be permitted. This decision has been made after careful consideration and is based on several important factors. Please contact us if you wish to discuss this further.

Package 5: Childcare between the hours of 8am-6pm for those who are not eligible for funding. This is charged at a flat fee for 0-4 year olds.

Full Day 8am to 6pm	£98.52
Breakfast Session 7am -8am	£16.20
Hourly rate for additional hours accessed	£10.80



Funding & Fees Breakdown

9–23 Months

(Up to 24 hours government funding per week over 48 weeks of the year, accessed from the term after your child turns 9 months)

Time Period Fee Description Cost

Funded Hours

(8am–2pm) Elected Fee (Optional Contribution) **£8.53**

- Meals (Breakfast & Lunch) £6.66
- Non Food Consumables £1.87

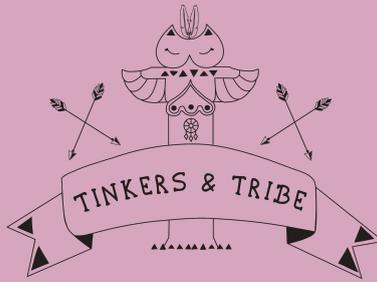
Private Hours

(2pm–6pm) Care Fee **£53.90**

Total Daily Cost *(Including elected consumables and private care)* **£61.32**

Notes:

- Elected Fee is optional but supports meals, nappies, and other consumables during funded hours.
- Government funding covers childcare only; meals and consumables are not included.
- Private care costs apply after 2pm when funding ends for the day.



Funding & Fees Breakdown

2–3 Year Olds

(Up to 24 hours government funding per week over 48 weeks of the year, accessed from the term after your child's 2nd birthday)

Time Period Fee Description Cost

Funded Hours

(8am–2pm) Elected Fee (Optional Contribution) **£7.16**

- Meals (Breakfast & Lunch) £6.66
- Non Food Consumables £0.50

Private Hours

(2pm–6pm) Care Fee **£47.43**

Total Daily Cost *(Including elected consumables and private care)* **£54.75**

Notes:

- Elected Fee is optional but supports meals, nappies, and other consumables during funded hours.
- Government funding covers childcare only; meals and consumables are not included.
- Private care costs apply after 2pm when funding ends for the day.



Funding & Fees Breakdown

3 & 4 Year Olds

(Up to 24 hours government funding per week over 48 weeks of the year accessed from the term after your child's 3rd birthday)

Time Period Fee Description Cost

Funded Hours

(8am–2pm) Elected Fee (Optional Contribution) £7.16

- Meals (Breakfast & Lunch) £6.66
- Non food consumables £0.50

Private Hours

(2pm–6pm) Care Fee £37.21

Total Daily Cost *(Including elected consumables and private care)* **£44.53**

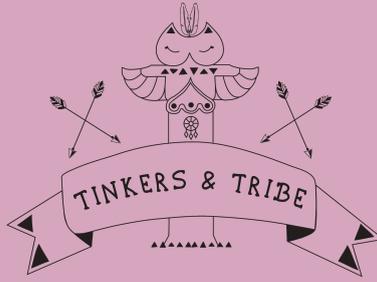
Notes:

- The Elected Fee is optional but supports daily consumables and meals during funded hours (8am–2pm).
- Government funding does not cover food, nappies, or enrichment activities. •

Private care is charged from 2pm–6pm.

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Steps to apply for funding:

1. Visit the government website: [gov.uk/apply-30- hours-free-childcare](https://www.gov.uk/apply-30-hours-free-childcare)
2. Provide your supporting documents, like your child's passport.
3. Apply for your eligibility code. You'll need your National Insurance number too.
4. Remember to reconfirm your eligibility every three months.
5. Submit your completed parent declaration form, including the eligibility code to info@tinkersandtribe.co.uk so head office can submit your eligibility code.
6. Wait for a decision. It might be instant but can take up to seven days.
7. Families can assess their eligibility for funding and the application process by visiting the Government Childcare Choices website.
8. To set up your tax free childcare account and pay for your elected fee and private childcare, click here: [Apply for Tax-Free Childcare - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-tax-free-childcare)

For more information about available funding, please watch this useful video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0B7F3eMG0Y>

Term dates can be found:

https://www.kelsi.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/119777/Sample-38-Weeks.pdf

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