



Fee & Funding Guide

Fully Funded 10 Hour Day

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. To help children settle in and get the most from their experience, we ask that all children enrol for a minimum of two days

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.

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 below for details

Notice Periods & End Dates: A full terms notice period is required. Here is 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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Tribe Incorporated Ltd
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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.

Fully Funded 10-Hour Days (8am–6pm)

For eligible families, Tinkers and Tribe is pleased to offer **10-hour fully funded childcare days**, where the full day from **8am to 6pm** is covered by government funding. This means there is **no privately funded childcare charge** for the day, provided eligibility criteria are met and sufficient funded hours are available.

Fully funded 10-hour days are available across our stretched funding model and are subject to availability, confirmation of eligibility, and completion of the required parent declaration forms.

What does “fully funded” mean?

Government funding covers the **cost of childcare hours only**. While a 10-hour day may be fully funded in terms of childcare, funding does **not** include consumables such as meals, snacks, nappies, wipes, formula, or other personal care items. Families may choose to pay an elected fee to cover these consumables or provide their own, in line with the options outlined below.

Elected Fees on Fully Funded 10-Hour Days

For children accessing a fully funded 10-hour day (8am–6pm), the elected fee remains a **voluntary contribution** towards consumables used throughout the day. This includes meals, snacks, drinks, nappies, wipes, and other daily consumables.

Families who opt out of the elected fee must provide **all consumables required for the full day**, including meals and snacks, in accordance with our food and safety policies. Pack lunches are not permitted, and only home-prepared hot meals will be accepted.



Elected 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*)

Elected Fee (Optional Contribution) **£11.75**

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*)

Elected Fee (Optional Contribution) **£8.90**

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*)

Elected Fee (Optional Contribution) **£8.90**

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.



Important limitations & compliance

Funding Limits and Availability

Fully funded 10-hour days are subject to the annual funded hour cap and the stretched funding calendar. There are specific days each year where funding cannot be claimed, and these days will be charged privately where applicable.

All funded places are offered in line with local authority guidance and may be withdrawn or adjusted if eligibility is not reconfirmed on time or if funding is reclaimed by the local authority.

Funding confirmation and audits

All government funded places, including fully funded 10-hour days, are subject to local authority audit and compliance checks. If funding is withdrawn, reduced, or reclaimed due to ineligibility, late reconfirmation, or incorrect information provided by parents, families will be liable for any childcare costs not covered by funding.

Reconfirmation responsibility

It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to reconfirm their funding eligibility every three months. Failure to reconfirm by the required deadline may result in funded hours being lost. In these circumstances, childcare access will be charged at the private daily rate until funding is reinstated.

Non-Payment of Elected Fees

Where an elected fee has been agreed for consumables on a fully funded day, failure to pay this fee may result in the elected fee being removed and families being required to provide all consumables for their child.

Absences on funded days

Government funding is claimed based on a child's booked attendance, not actual attendance. No refunds or additional funded sessions will be offered for absences due to illness, holidays, or any other reason.

Late collection and additional services

Government funding does not cover late collection fees, optional early start sessions, enrichment activities, or additional services. These will be charged separately where applicable.



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 the 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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