

The Early Bird Pre-School CIC

Guide to Fees and Funding

2025 – 2026



Fees

September 2025 – 38 weeks a year (term time only)

Times	Session	Hours	Charges			
			3 years plus – hours above any entitlement	2 - 3 years – hours above any entitlement	Under 2's – hours above any entitlement	Voluntary Additional Care charge – all children *
8.00 – 8.30	Breakfast Club	½ hour	£3.85	£4.65	£5.65	50p
8.30 – 11.30	Morning session	3 hours	£23.10	£27.90	£33.90	£1
9.00 – 11.30	Morning session	2 ½ hours	£19.25	£23.25	£28.25	£1
11.30 – 12.15	Lunch club (packed lunch, Letchworth)	¾ hour				
11.30 – 12.30	Lunch club (packed lunch, Strathmore & Wheathampstead)	1 hour	£7.70	£9.30	£11.30	50p
11.30 – 12.30	Setting lunch (Wheathampstead only)	1	£7.70	£9.30	£11.30	£3
12.30 – 3.30	Afternoon session	3 hours	£23.10	£27.90	£33.90	£1
3.30 – 5.00	Owlets (Strathmore only)	1 ½ hours	£15	£15	£15	n/a

* Care Charge Note

To ensure sustainability of our pre-school a care charge will be added to your invoice and contributes towards lots of additional costs including but not exclusive: snacks, cooking ingredients, daily play-doh ingredients, wipes, tissues, toilet rolls, hand wash, sun cream, cleaning products and other consumables. Please supply own nappies. If you would like a particular brand of wipes, please supply these alongside nappies.

If the care charge is a barrier to your child receiving their entitlement please speak to us, we can help.

** Owlet sessions

These are currently only being run in Hitchin and are subject to parent demand. These sessions may be discontinued if no demand and therefore not included in the funding entitlement.

Government funding support available (September 2025) – 38 weeks a year (term time) (please check www.childcarechoices.gov for eligibility and to apply for your code)

At Early Birds, families will be able to access their childcare support entitlement from their child's first birthday.

Childcare support for 1 – 2-year-olds – working families

Families of children aged over one who are working may be entitled to **30 hours per week** across 38 weeks. This will rise to 30 hours from September 2025.

Childcare support for 2-year-olds - supported families

Families of 2-year-olds who receive additional government support may be entitled to **15 hours per week** across 38 weeks.

Universal funding for 3–4-year-olds

All families of 3–4-year-olds are entitled to **15 hours per week** of childcare support across 38 weeks.

Childcare support for 3–4-year-olds – working families

Working families with a 3–4-year-old may be entitled to an additional 15 hours childcare support per week (**30 hours per week in total**) across 38 weeks.

You can start your entitlement from the term following your child’s 2nd or 3rd birthday (on receiving a signed acceptance of place form).

Birth date falls between	Entitlement Start date
1 st January – 31 st March	1 st April
1 st April – 31 st August	1 st September
1 st September – 31 st December	1 st January

Ways of using your funding entitlement

15 hour entitlement (38 weeks)		30 hour entitlement (38 weeks)	
Over 5 days	Am or pm sessions (3 hours) x 5 days	Over 5 days	8 – 3.30 x 3 days (22.5)
		Option 1	Am or pm session x 1 (3) 8 – 12.30 x 1 day (4.5)
Over 4 days	Am or pm session plus lunch x 3 days (12 hours) Am or pm session x 1 day (3 hours)	Over 5 days	9 – 3.30 x 4 days (26 hours)
		option 2	Am or pm session with lunch x 1 (4 hours)
Over 2 days	8 – 3.30 x 2 days	Over 4 days	8 – 3.30

Waiting list – children’s registration forms are placed on a waiting list by date of receiving. Our main intake occurs in September of each year in line with children leaving to attend school. Any other places will be offered as and when they become available. This is reviewed at the end of each half term.

Notice Period – we require a minimum of 6 weeks’ notice to terminate your contract with Early Bird.

Invoices – will be sent to you on the last day of each half term. Payment will be due by the end of the first week of each half term.

Payments – invoices can be made using bank transfer, childcare vouchers or children’s tax free childcare (find us at The Early Bird Pre-School CIC, West View, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 1QN for all settings).

TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY

The Early Bird Pre-School CIC	The Early Bird Pre-School (Wheathampstead)	The Early Bird Pre-School (Strathmore)
West View Letchworth Garden City SG6 1QN	Beech Hyde Primary School and Nursery Nurseries Road Wheathampstead AL4 8TP	Strathmore Infant School and Nursery Old Hale Way Hitchin SG5 1XR

All queries about fees and funding to go to Katherine
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