

FACT SHEET 35

What can I expect to pay at Early Years and Childcare Services in Dundee?

This fact sheet will give you an idea of the average costs charged across early learning and/or childcare services throughout Dundee and what you might expect to pay. Most services set their own fees and are subject to change. You should always discuss your requirements and actual fees charged directly with the service provider before entering into an agreement with them.

Childminders

Childminders are self employed and set their charges themselves. These charges can vary in different areas. There is no national rate but the average charges in Dundee are between £3.50 - £6 per hour and £140 - £225 per week for full-time care. Fees charged by a childminder can take into consideration school pick ups, school drop offs, any meals provided, and other individual circumstances. Some childminders may offer a discount for a second child from the same family.

For further guidance about Choosing a Childminder see Fact Sheet 11.

Local Authority Nursery Schools and Classes

From August 2019 all children, living in Dundee, who are four between 1st March 2019 and 28th February 2020 and three between 1st March and 31st August 2019 are entitled to a funded part time early learning and childcare place in a Dundee City Council nursery school or class or in a private nursery or playgroup which has a Partnership agreement with Dundee City Council.

As of August 2015, this also extended to 2 year old children who are, or have been at any time since turning 2, looked after or subject to a kinship care order or from those who are in receipt of certain qualifying benefits. See Fact Sheet 37 for further information about this.

Fact Sheet 7 gives full guidance on admission to nursery schools and classes.

Private Nurseries

Nursery charges vary in different areas. You can expect to pay between £120 and £250 per child per week. Costs may also vary for children aged under 2 and over 2. If your childcare provider provides early learning and is in partnership with the local authority, they can receive funding enabling them to give your child a free part-time place from the term following their 3rd birthday and until your child first becomes eligible to start primary school. However, you must make an application for this.

For further guidance about enrolling in a nursery and current admissions guidance see Fact sheet 7 and for choosing a nursery see Fact Sheet 10.

Out of School Care Clubs

Out of School Care Clubs are managed by voluntary parent management committees. Clubs are operated by qualified staff and parents are charged fees for their children's attendance at the clubs. Each club sets its own level of fees but the fees charged have to cover the overheads of the club.

Prices can vary but in Dundee you can expect to pay between £50 and £80 per child per week for an after school childcare place and between £80 and £120 per child per week for a full time place during the holidays.

For further guidance about choosing an Out of School Care Club see Fact Sheet 17.

Playgroups

Playgroups provide sessions of play and education for children. Some playgroups also work in partnership with their local authority to provide

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funded, part-time early learning and childcare places for 3 and 4 year olds.

Playgroups cost on average about £9 per session. However, playgroups that are in partnership with local authorities may be free of charge if you qualify for a part time funded place. You would need to check this with the playgroup and the local authority and make an application for this. Current admissions guidance is on Fact Sheet 7. For further guidance about choosing a playgroup see Fact Sheet 9.

Parent and Toddler Groups

Parent and Toddler Groups are small groups where you can take your baby and/or toddler, where you can find friendship, fun, support and a first opportunity for learning outside the home for very young children and a chance for parents and carers to socialise with other adults. Prices can range from around 50p to £2.50 per session. Sometimes this includes refreshments, and there may be reductions for 2 or more children from the same family.

For further guidance about parent and toddler groups see Factsheet 32.

Please note

Your chosen childcare provider will be able to give you more information about their charges. **Always discuss your requirements and actual fees charged directly with the service provider before entering into an agreement with them.**

Further fact sheets to assist you when choosing relevant early learning or childcare for your circumstances are available from the Dundee Children & Families Information Service and are available to download online at www.dundee.gov.uk/childcare/childcareinfo or at the Childcare Advice Category for Dundee at www.families.scot.

For further information about childcare services available in Dundee City go to www.families.scot, or contact DUNDEE CHILDREN & FAMILIES INFORMATION SERVICE at cis@dundee.gov.uk or telephone 01382 433900.

www.dundee.gov.uk/childcare/childcareinfo

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Information is available about individual providers on our Dundee pages of the national website where alongside details about childcare services you can also access our Online Directory for advice, groups, activities and other services available for families locally and nationally

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