

Section 3:

Early Years Childcare Charging Policy (Full Version)

The full version also available:

<https://www.islington.gov.uk/children-and-families/childcare-and-early-education/paying-for-childcare>

Islington Early Years Childcare Charging Policy

September 2023

Introduction

1. This policy sits alongside the [admission policy](#) in outlining the terms and conditions of childcare places in Islington; please refer to both for full details.
2. The policy must be used by children's centres, early years centres, voluntary sector nurseries with council subsidised childcare places and community schools when applying charges for nursery provision over and above the free early education offer.
3. Islington Council subsidises childcare for children aged 6 months and above, in all its children's and early years centres and in a number of voluntary sector community nurseries. This supports the council to ensure that local, affordable high-quality childcare is made available to parents and carers who are in employment or studying towards a qualification.
4. Once proof of residence in Islington has been provided, childcare charges are calculated based on the earned and unearned annual incomes made available to **both** parents/carers **before** deductions. The completion of an income assessment form, evidence of employment and/or studying are required for all places. Parents who take up Band 11 and Marketed places must also provide evidence of employment working days and hours, but do not have to provide evidence of income
5. In order to identify which charging band to apply, childcare providers ask both parents, (or one parent if a single parent family) to show evidence of their income as part of the admissions process.
6. **Funded early education for two, three and four year olds**
 - 6.1 Some 2-year-old children can receive 570 hours per year Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) from the term after their second birthday. This equates to 15 hours per week, term time only.
 - 6.2 All 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to 570 hours per year of Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) from the term after their third birthday. This equates to 15 hours per week, term time only.
 - 6.3 3 and 4 year olds from working families may be entitled to an extra free 15 hours per week term time only, a total of 30 hours of free childcare per week.
 - 6.4 For further information about free early education eligibility criteria and how to apply please see the free early education pages on the [Islington website](#)
7. **Income charge assessments and childcare charges**
 - 7.1 Families taking up the free early education entitlement do not need to be income-assessed unless they are paying for additional hours

In all other cases, families are income-assessed for childcare charges.

 - 7.2 Following the income assessment, childcare charges are calculated according to the relevant charging band, and the relevant age of the child: Under 2s, 2-3 years, 3 and 4 years.
 - 7.3 There are no charges in the following circumstances:
 - 7.3.1 both parents (if applicable) of children placed by the Priority Early Learning panel are in receipt of Universal Credit who are NOT working.
 - 7.3.2 the Priority Early Learning panel agrees to waive the childcare charge due to exceptional family circumstances and in the best interests of the child. Evidence of this must be provided.

- 7.4 Parents that are studying must provide the following in order to be prioritised for a place under the admissions criteria:
- 7.4.1 proof of acceptance onto a course leading to an accredited qualification
 - 7.4.2 evidence that the course provider will pay for the childcare
- 7.5 The income charge assessment and parent contract forms must be completed and signed by parents/carers **before** the child starts.
- 7.6 Parents/carers are given a one-week (Monday – Friday consecutively for 2-, 3- and 5-days places) settling in period at no charge.
- 7.7 If the charging policy is amended or if childcare charges have been calculated incorrectly, notice of 4 weeks will be given to affected parents and new charges applied at the end of that notice period.
- 7.8 A notice period of 4 weeks will be given for any change to childcare charges.
- 7.9 If your household income reduces /increases at any time, (including, but not restricted to shared parental, maternity, paternity or adoption leave - if you are on leave) and you move into a different charging band, your charges will decrease/increase accordingly.
- 7.9.1 in order for any decreased charges to be backdated, parents will need to provide evidence of a change in financial circumstances and within one month of the change.
 - 7.9.2 please note that self-employed persons are not required to provide their evidence within one month of the change but will need to provide evidence at the earliest opportunity.
 - 7.9.3 any increase in household income resulting in a new income band, will lead to backdated fees being applied from the point at which household income increased
- 7.10 If the employment of one or both parent/s ends:
- 7.10.1 where children are receiving the extended 30 hour Free Early Education Entitlement, they will continue to be eligible for this until the grace period ends, after which the universal 15 hours entitlement will apply. The grace period is defined by the Early Education and Childcare statutory guidance 2018.
 - 7.10.2 if you do not qualify for the Free Early Education entitlement, a 6-week notice period will apply.
- 7.11 If you request a change from a full-day place to a core place (9.30am-3.30pm, 6 hours per day), or vice-versa, due to a change in circumstances, we cannot guarantee you can change back again.
- 7.11 Charges will decrease the term after the child's 2nd and 3rd birthdays, in line with the government funding (See section 14).

8. Charging weeks

- 8.1 In every full school (academic) year, term-time only (TTO) charges are payable for 39 weeks (i.e., 195 days – 190 plus 5 INSET days). All year round charges are 39 weeks at term-time charge and 10 (or 11) weeks at holiday charge, totalling 49 (or 50) weeks.
- 8.2 Over a number of years, an extra holiday charge week is incurred owing to the extra day/s accumulated through leap years and the fact that even non-leap years have 52 weeks plus 1 day. Costs (staffing etc.) are incurred for the additional charging week within that financial year - therefore the extra charge to parents/carers needs also to be made within the same financial year.
- 8.3 Charges are set for full weeks (TTO 39 weeks, AYR 10/11 weeks) even though terms sometimes begin and/or end halfway through a week. By the end of the academic year, part weeks charged as full weeks will balance out with part weeks not charged for.

9. Arrears Policy

- 9.1 Childcare charges are crucial to each setting's budget. The Council operates a 'no arrears' policy to prevent parents/carers building up arrears which they may have difficulty meeting.
- 9.2 The arrears policy must be followed by all Local Authority managed early years' centres, children's centres, nursery schools, children's centres in schools and primary schools who receive the subsidy. Other organisations are strongly advised to use the policy as a model.
- 9.3 In all cases of arrears, the Head of the Provision must be kept informed and consulted in the following procedures.
The centre/school admin officer will:
 - 9.3.1 Week 1: provide a statement to the parent with reminder to pay
 - 9.3.2 Week 2: issue the first arrears letter if the parent has not responded to the statement
 - 9.3.3 Week 3: issue the second letter as soon as the deadline for the first letter expires
 - 9.3.4 The Head/Executive Head will negotiate an appropriate period for payment of the arrears, which is confirmed in writing and signed by both parties
- 9.4 If the payment plan is not adhered to, (LBI providers only) the Council will take legal action to pursue any outstanding arrears, following the withdrawal of the place. Appropriate documentation needs to be passed on to the Early Years Bursar for further follow up and legal action.
- 9.5 Writing off arrears should only be considered where all other administrative and legal options to collect the debt have been exhausted. Settings should be aware that any amounts written off are repayable to the council as part of the clawback policy.
 - 9.5.1 LBI providers only - must submit all evidence to the Early Years Bursar
 - 9.5.2 All other providers need to apply to the London Borough of Islington Senior Management Team for consideration providing all evidence that every avenue has been exhausted
 - 9.5.3 If a write off has been agreed, the Early Years Bursar will make the adjustment on the daycare monitoring spreadsheet

10. Non-Islington Residents; Keyworkers; Marketed places

- 10.1 Non-Islington residents can only access out of borough/marked places in Islington children's and early years' centres.
- 10.2 However, Keyworkers (see Admissions Policy) can access marketed or community places where they are available. Keyworker places are allocated first to those who live in Islington, second to those who work in Islington, and third to keyworkers who live and work out of borough.
- 10.3 If an Islington resident in a community place moves out of borough, their childcare charges will be adjusted to the marketed rate.

11. Discounts

- 11.1 A 25% discount is applied where a child has an identified disability as set out in the disabled children policy (fuller details are shown on [Section: 5 Disabled Children – \(Definition\)](#)).
- 11.2 The following discounts apply to Islington residents who pay childcare charges for a place for a child under five attending the same or another setting, subsidised by Islington Council. Please note, most primary school nursery classes using this charging policy do not receive further subsidy from Islington Council and therefore these discounts are not applicable.

| No. of children | % reduction | Reductions for second and subsequent children |
|-----------------|-------------|--|
| 1 | 0% | (1st child 0%) |
| 2 | 25% | (1st child 0%, second child 25%) |
| 3 | 35% | (1st child 0%, second child 25%, 3rd child 35%) |
| 4 | 45% | (1st child 0%, second child 25%, 3rd child 35%, 4th child 45%) |

| No. of children | % reduction | Reductions for second and subsequent children of multiple births |
|-----------------|-------------|--|
| Twins | 30% | (1st child 0%, second child 30%) |
| Triplets | 40% | (1st child 0%, second child 30%, 3rd child 40%) |
| Quads | 50% | (1st child 0%, second child 30%, 3rd child 40%, 4th child 50%) |

12. Hours attended and amounts charged

- 12.1 The childcare charging schedules show the weekly charges for 8am to 6pm and 15 hours charges for each band in each age group.
- 12.2 Different charging rates apply for Term Time Only (TTO) and All Year Round (AYR) provision.

13. Days and hours offered

- 13.1 We aim to ensure nursery provision is sustainable whilst still offering flexibility to meet parents/carers needs. We do this through setting occupancy and income targets in order to maximise the use of council resources. **Places are therefore only offered in line with the agreed delivery models as below:**

- 13.1.1 Term Time Only (TTO) 9.30am to 3.30pm (core day 6 hours per day) – applies to children term after the third birthday, which is when all children are entitled to 15 hours Free Early Education (FEEE) or 30 hours providing they are within the criteria parents, (evidence of this will be required). Some two year olds may also be entitled to 15 hours FEEE
- 13.1.2 All Year Round (AYR) 8am to 6pm (extended day 10 hours per day) – applies to all children of working or studying parents
- 13.1.3 The pattern of days within TTO or AYR can be taken as follows:
 - 13.1.4 5 consecutive days
 - 13.1.5 3 consecutive days at the beginning or end of the week: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday or Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
 - 13.2.6 2 consecutive days at the beginning or end of the week: Monday and Tuesday or Thursday and Friday
 - 13.1.7 2.5 consecutive days with Wednesday as half day
 - 13.1.8 5 mornings or afternoons
- 13.2 Paid for childcare is only available for parents who are working or studying and will only be offered on the days that are required to enable parents to work or study, within the delivery models above at 13.1
- 13.3 In exceptional circumstances, at the discretion of the Head/Executive Head and in agreement with Early Years Finance or the relevant senior officer, an alternative delivery pattern may be agreed. This will be reviewed on a termly basis.

14. Other Charges

- 14.1 The cost of lunch for children under 3 is incorporated in the childcare charges (where applicable).
- 14.2 From 1 April 2020, 3 and 4 year olds in Children’s Centres and Early Years Centres accessing free early education are not charged for lunch during term time.
There is a separate charge for lunch (when attended) during the holidays (10/11 weeks) for children accessing Free Early Education. This applies from the start of the term after the 3rd birthday.
- 14.3 No lunch charge is applied to children placed by the Priority Early Learning panel whose charges have been waived or for children whose parents in receipt of Universal Credits who are not working. Parents must provide evidence of this.
This is applied to children who are two and a term that receive their FEEE only across 2.5 consecutive days per week or whose hours cross over the lunch period and they stay for lunch.
- 14.4 Dietary needs can be catered for on medical grounds only (allergies/intolerances etc.) for which proof is required.
- 14.5 Parents/carers may be asked for a contribution towards the cost of trips.
- 14.6 The cost of care products (nappies and wipes etc.) is not included in the childcare charges.

15. Temporary offer of place – beginning of academic year

- 15.1 If there are vacancies at the beginning of the academic year and children require a place until they start school this will be charged at holiday rate.

16. Charging institutions and outside boroughs

- 16.1 Borough and corporate sponsors paying for childcare are charged at the maximum band or full cost.
- 16.2 Where a corporate sponsor has a capped childcare contribution, all other parental income along with the sponsor's contribution must be assessed to determine the charging band applicable.

17. INSET Days and Bank Holidays

- 17.1 There are 5 days per academic year known as INSET days when settings are closed for staff training. Charges are payable for these 5 days and for Bank Holidays. These charges are incorporated within the childcare charges.

18. Charging Principles

- 18.1 London Borough of Islington applies its charges in line with the Government Statutory Guidance for FEEE (Free Early Education Entitlements).
- 18.2 The relevant dates (in relation to the age criterion) are as follows:
 - 18.2.1 Children born in the period 1 January to 31 March: the start of term beginning on or following 1 April after the child's second birthday
 - 18.2.2 Children born in the period 1 April to 31 August: the start of term beginning on or following 1 September after the child's second birthday
 - 18.2.3 Children born in the period 1 September to 31 December: the start of term beginning on or following 1 January after the child's second birthday
- 18.3 The above also applies to children at the start of the term after their third birthday.

19. Charging Schedules

- 19.1 Charges are based on the earned and unearned annual incomes available to both parents before any deductions – such as Tax, National Insurance, Pension/Pension sacrifices, Childcare Voucher schemes, Annual Leave Accruals/Sacrifice, Travel Ticket, Laptop, Student Loan repayments, Gym Memberships etc. Please note: this is not an exhaustive list.
- 19.2 The charging schedules display 50 hours (8am-6pm) 5 days per week for children under 2yrs and children aged 2–3yrs with no FEEE. (49/50 weeks per year September to August; see section 3 for charging weeks' explanation).
- 19.3 For children aged 2-3yrs who have a FEEE of 15 hours the charges displayed are for 50 hours (8am-6pm) 5 days per week and take into account the 15 hour entitlement during term time (39 weeks September – August).
- 19.4 For children aged 3-4yrs who have a FEEE of 15 hours, the charges displayed are for 50 hours (8am-6pm) 5 days per week and take into account the 15 hour entitlement during term time (39 weeks September – August).
- 19.5 For children aged 3-4yrs and have a FEEE of 30 hrs, the charges displayed are for 50hrs (8am-6pm) 5 days per week and take into account the 30 hour entitlement during term time (39 weeks September – August).
- 19.6 During the holidays (10/11 weeks September - August) all children who are allocated an all year round place are charged for 50 hours (8am-6pm).

Charging Schedules

**To be implemented from;
Monday 4th September 2023**

For all children under five in Islington funded nurseries, including early years and children's centres, nursery schools, primary schools (where applicable) and community nurseries.

The charge for lunch will be £2.20 per day when attending during the holidays for all children the term after their third birthday.

Charging schedules from Monday 4th September 2023

For all children under five in Islington funded nurseries including early years and children's centres, nursery schools, primary schools (where applicable) and community nurseries.

The schedule below is for Weekly Charges for 5 days, 8am – 6pm – Please note: All 8am to 6pm places are all year round 49/50 weeks per year.

Charges for children with a 15 hour Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) wishing to extend to 30 hours are shown on pages 9 and 10.

Charges for children who attend fewer than 5 days 8.00 – 6.00 all year round must be calculated using the schedule below (see examples at the bottom of this page).

| Bands | Under 2's (49/50 weeks) | 2 to 3 Year Olds - No free entitlements (49/50 weeks) | 2 to 3 Year Olds - Entitled to 15 hours FEEE (39 Weeks) | 3 and 4 Year Olds – Entitled to 15 hours FEEE (39 Weeks) | 3 and 4 Year Olds – Entitled to 30 hours FEEE (39 weeks) | 3 and 4 Year Olds – Holiday charges (10/11 weeks) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---|---|--|--|---|
| Band 1 (Up to £24,999) | £207.70 | £203.39 | £142.37 | £142.53 | £81.45 | £162.89 |
| Band 2 (£25,000 - £30,999) | £219.78 | £215.47 | £150.83 | £150.83 | £86.20 | £172.38 |
| Band 3 (£31,000 - £39,999) | £239.17 | £234.49 | £164.14 | £164.14 | £93.80 | £187.59 |
| Band 4 (£40,000 - £49,999) | £265.04 | £259.84 | £181.89 | £181.89 | £103.94 | £207.87 |
| Band 5 (£50,000 - £59,999) | £297.36 | £291.53 | £204.07 | £204.07 | £116.61 | £233.32 |
| Band 6 (£60,000 - £69,999) | £336.14 | £329.55 | £230.68 | £230.68 | £131.82 | £263.65 |
| Band 7 (£70,000 - £79,999) | £349.32 | £342.47 | £239.73 | £239.42 | £136.99 | £273.98 |
| Band 8 (£80,000 - £89,999) | £410.77 | £373.42 | £261.40 | £261.40 | £149.37 | £298.74 |
| Band 9 (£90,000 - £99,999) | £434.35 | £394.86 | £276.40 | £276.40 | £157.95 | £315.88 |
| Band 10 (£100,000 - £120,000) | £468.90 | £426.27 | £298.39 | £298.39 | £170.51 | £341.01 |
| Band 11 (above £120,000) | £495.50 | £450.45 | £315.32 | £315.32 | £180.18 | £360.35 |
| Out of Borough/Marketed | £522.40 | £4474.90 | £332.43 | £332.43 | £189.97 | £379.92 |

Calculation example of charges: - Please note; Lunch is charged separately for 3 and 4 year olds during the holidays, when attending

Under two - attending 2 days, 8.00 - 6.00, AYR, Band 3 = $£239.17/5 \times 2 = £95.67 \times 49/50$ weeks

Two year old – attending 5 days, 8.00 – 6.00, AYR, Band 1, entitled to 15 hours FEEE = $£142.37 \times 39$ weeks (TTO.) Holiday charge = $£203.39 \times 10/11$ weeks

Two year old - allocated a Priority Early Learning place (PEL) – attending 5 days, 9.30-3.30 – Band 1 entitled to 15 hours FEEE = $£61.02$ (see chart below for 2 year olds)

Three and four year olds – attending 3 days 8.00-6.00 AYR Band 8 entitled to 30 hours FEEE = $£0.00 \times 39$ weeks (TTO). Holiday charge = $£298.74/5 \times 3 = £179.24 \times 10/11$ weeks

Three and four year olds – attending 5 days, 9.30 – 3.30, TTO, Band 11, entitled to the universal hours of 15 only = $£135.13$ (see chart below for 3 and 4 year olds)

Charging schedules from Monday 4th September 2023

For all children under five in Islington funded nurseries including early years and children's centres, nursery schools, primary schools (where applicable) and community nurseries.

Weekly Charges for Two year olds entitled to 15 hours per week FEEE, 39 weeks per year Term Time Only - 9.30am - 3.30pm.

| Bands | 2 year olds – Entitled to 15 hours FEEE per week (39 Weeks) 9.30 – 3.30 Term Time Only |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Band 1 (Up to £24,999) | £61.02 |
| Band 2 (£25,000 - £30,999) | £64.64 |
| Band 3 (£31,000 - £39,999) | £70.35 |
| Band 4 (£40,000 - £49,999) | £77.95 |
| Band 5 (£50,000 - £59,999) | £87.46 |
| Band 6 (£60,000 - £69,999) | £98.86 |
| Band 7 (£70,000 - £79,999) | £102.74 |
| Band 8 (£80,000 - £89,999) | £112.03 |
| Band 9 (£90,000 - £99,999) | £118.46 |
| Band 10 (£100,000 - £120,000) | £127.88 |
| Band 11 (above £120,000) | £135.13 |
| Out of Borough/Marketed | £142.47 |

Weekly Charges for 3- and 4-year-olds entitled to 15 hours per week FEEE, 39 weeks per year Term Time Only - 9.30am - 3.30pm.

| Bands | 3 and 4 year olds – Entitled to 15 hours per week (39 Weeks) Term Time Only |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Band 1 (Up to £24,999) | £61.02 |
| Band 2 (£25,000 - £30,999) | £64.64 |
| Band 3 (£31,000 - £39,999) | £70.35 |
| Band 4 (£40,000 - £49,999) | £77.95 |
| Band 5 (£50,000 - £59,999) | £87.46 |
| Band 6 (£60,000 - £69,999) | £98.86 |
| Band 7 (£70,000 - £79,999) | £102.74 |
| Band 8 (£80,000 - £89,999) | £112.03 |
| Band 9 (£90,000 - £99,999) | £118.46 |
| Band 10 (£100,000 - £120,000) | £127.88 |
| Band 11 (above £120,000) | £135.13 |
| Out of Borough/Marketed | £142.47 |

Playscheme charges per week from Monday 4th September 2023

For all children in Islington funded nurseries. Including early years and children's centres, nursery schools, primary schools (where applicable) and community nurseries.

Under 3s

10 hours per day 8am to 6pm 50 hours – 5 days per week £171.10

3 and 4 year olds

10 hours per day 8am to 6pm 50 hours – 5 days per week £154.84

Concessionary charges

Under 3s

10 hours per day 8am to 6pm 50 hours – 5 days per week £85.74

3 and 4 year olds

10 hours per day 8am to 6pm 50 hours – 5 days per week £78.07

In addition, lunch is charged separately.

Playscheme places are available to children who have left the setting and to siblings.

Please note:

The council has a '**NO ARREARS**' Policy.

All arrears must be cleared before a playscheme place can be offered and all playscheme charges must be paid in advance.

No refunds are given once a place has been accepted, this is due to staffing arrangements.