**Childcare Offer – Additional Charges FAQs**

***Q: Can my childcare provider charge me for extra costs?***

A: Yes, the Childcare Offer provides funded childcare, not ‘free’ childcare. Your childcare provider can charge you directly for food, transport and occasional off-site activities (not routine activities).

Food charges are set by Welsh Government at:

* **£3** per meal
* Snacks **£1**
* Full day care (approx. 10 hours. 3 meals and 2 snacks): max of **£10.80**
* Half day session (approx. 5.5 hours. 2 meals and 1 snack): max of **£6.90**

Transport costs vary depending on location and the type of transport, so fees can be decided by the childcare provider.

Your childcare provider might not charge you for food and transport directly. These charges may be included in their fees. If you have queries please discuss fees with your childcare provider before signing a contract**.**

***Q: Can I use the Childcare Offer funding to pay for retainer fees/deposits/holding fees?***

A: No, the Childcare Offer funding is to help pay for actual childcare costs only. Any additional fees must be paid by the parent.

***Q: Can my childcare provider charge me a top up if the Childcare Offer doesn’t cover their fees?***

A: Childcare providers must remain viable while delivering the Childcare Offer. If providers normally charge parents per day/half day/session, the childcare provider can claim this rate from the Childcare Offer.

If the daily/half day/session rates exceed the number of hours funded through the Childcare Offer, parents may have to pay the shortfall directly to the childcare provider.

Childcare providers cannot charge parents who are receiving the Childcare Offer for something they do not charge non-Childcare Offer parents for.

***Q: Can I use other Government childcare funding schemes at the same time as the Childcare Offer?***

1. Yes, if you are eligible, you can use the [Tax-Free Childcare scheme](https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare) **OR** the [childcare element of Universal Credit](https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/universal-credit) to help pay for childcare costs that aren’t covered by the Childcare Offer.

***Q: Do childcare providers have to offer me a place when I want to use my Childcare Offer hours?***

A: Childcare providers must comply with Welsh Government’s [Care Inspectorate Wales](https://www.careinspectorate.wales/) regulations that limit how many children they can care for, depending on space and staffing, to ensure the safety and well-being of all children. Parents must always check with their childcare provider that they can accommodate their children before requesting Childcare Offer hours through their online Childcare Offer account.

**Useful Websites:**

Information on the Childcare Offer: [www.gov.wales/get-30-hours-childcare-3-and-4-year-olds](http://www.gov.wales/get-30-hours-childcare-3-and-4-year-olds)

[www.childcarechioces.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechioces.gov.uk)