



This policy was last updated in January 2026 and is reviewed annually.

Fee Policy

Statement of intent

Ladybird Playgroup Thriplow CIO will provide parents with clear written information about fees charged and charges for additional services.

Aim

We aim to ensure equity and transparency with all fees charged.

Procedure

Ladybird Playgroup Thriplow CIO Fees – for private fees outside what is provided by early years funded hours:

Regular sessions are charged at £7.50 per hour for 2-year-olds and £7.00 per hour for 3 years and over.

Sibling rate for 2-year-olds of £6.75 per hour and for children 3 and 4-year-old £6.75 an hour.

The start and end times and fees for each session are shown in the table below:

Morning Sessions	Lunch Sessions	Afternoon Sessions
09:00 – 12:00hrs	12:00 – 13:15hrs	13:15 – 15:15hrs
£22.50 per session for 2-year-olds £21.00 per session for 3 and 4-year-olds	£9.38 for 2-year-olds £8.75 for 3 and 4-year-olds	£15.00 per session for 2-year-olds £14.00 per session for 3 and 4-year-olds

Please note that ad-hoc sessions will be charged at a flat rate of £7.75 per hour.

The fees are payable half termly.



For your child to keep their place at the Ladybird Playgroup Thriplow CIO, you are required to pay the fees within the 28-day timeframe from receipt of your invoice.

We offer spaces for 2-year-old to 4-year-old children eligible for either 15 or 30 hours of funded childcare. For families not eligible for early years funded hours, then we offer places at a fee to the family as set out in this policy.

Funding eligibility is set out below:

- 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of 2-year-old children
- 15 hours entitlement for disadvantaged 2-year-olds
- universal 15 hours entitlement for all 3 and 4-year-olds
- additional 15 hours entitlement for eligible working parents of 3 and 4-year-olds

The entitlement hours are up to 15 hours of childcare a week over 38 weeks of the year (equivalent to a maximum of 570 hours a year), or, for 3 and 4-year-olds, up to 30 hours of childcare a week over 38 weeks of the year for qualifying children of working parents (equivalent to a maximum 1,140 hours a year).

The maximum claim is 10 hours over one day, no more than 15 or 30 (if eligible) funded hours to be delivered in any one week.

We accept childcare vouchers.

We accept payments through the Government's Tax-Free Childcare Scheme.

Any fees charged for eligible children entitled to Early Years funding relate to:

- Hours attended in excess of the funded entitlement
- Weeks not funded by the Early Years Funding
- Additional services that are not linked to the funded entitlement.

Any hours attended above the 15 or 30 hours funded hours will be charged fees as stated in this policy.

Fees must still be paid if children are absent (including sickness and holiday) with or without notice for a short period of time.



If your child is absent over a long period of time, please discuss this with the Playgroup Leader who will present the case to the Committee Chairperson to review. In exceptional circumstances, fees may be waived temporarily, but this is at the discretion of the Committee Chairperson.

Staff at Ladybird Playgroup Thriplow CIO are offered a 10% discount on fees for any of their own children attending the setting.

Timescales for Fee Payments

Fee payments are due 28 days after receiving the Ladybird Playgroup Thriplow CIO Invoice. If fees remain unpaid after this time, then the following actions will be taken:

- i. A reminder email requesting payment of outstanding fees will be sent to the parents/carers.
- ii. A Paper copy of the bill will be made available to the parents/carers if required.
- iii. Should the fees still remain unpaid after a further four weeks then a second letter/email requesting payment of outstanding fees will be sent to the parents/carers with an updated invoice including a £10 administration fee and late payment fee of 10% of the outstanding bill. This will be followed by a telephone call with a voicemail being left when necessary, requesting payment of the outstanding bill. These communications will be accompanied by advice that if the bill remains outstanding, the playgroup will have no choice but to seek to obtain the outstanding monies through the court system.
- iv. Should the fees still remain unpaid seven days after the date on the 2nd letter/email the family will forfeit their child's place(s) at the Ladybird Playgroup Thriplow CIO and will result in court action being taken against the parents/carer to reclaim the outstanding fees, plus any further court costs relating to this bill.

If parents/carers are having difficulty paying Ladybird bills, we encourage them to contact our Administrator or the Committee Chairperson at the earliest possible opportunity so that a payment plan can be put into place where possible.

Late Collection Fees

Pick up from Ladybirds Playgroup is between 15:00hrs – 15:15hrs. If a parent or carer picks up after 15:15hrs (even if they have informed Ladybirds in advance), they will be asked to complete a Late Collection form and will incur a late notice fee of £10.00. If pick up is after 15:20hrs a further £10 late collection fee will be charged, and for every 10 minutes after that a further £10 will be added, as follows.



Morning Session Finish	Lunch Session Finish	Afternoon Session Finish	Late Fees
Pick up before 12:00hrs	Pick up before 13:15hrs	Pick up before 15:15hrs	N/A
Pick up 12:00hrs – 12:05hrs	Pick up 13:15hrs – 13:20hrs	Pick up 15:15hrs – 15:20hrs	£10.00
Pick up 12:05hrs – 12:15hrs	Pick up 13:20hrs – 13:30hrs	Pick up 15:20hrs – 15.30hrs	+ £10.00
Pick up 12:15hrs – 12:25hrs	Pick-up 13:30hrs- 13:40hrs	Pick up 15:30hrs – 15:40hrs	+ £10.00

The time will be taken from the clock at Ladybirds. Parents/Carers will be billed for this late payment at the end of the month in which the late collection occurred.

Depending on circumstances, we reserve the right to charge parents for the additional hours worked by our staff over and above the late fees already set out within this policy.

Breakfast Club Fees /Early Bug Club

Ladybird Playgroup Thriplow CIO operates Breakfast Club sessions, 08:00hrs – 08:50hrs, Monday – Friday term time only for children aged 3 -11years.

We also offer Early Bug Club, an early drop off service from 08:30hrs – 08:50hrs (no breakfast provided for these sessions).

The following fees apply per session

Child 1 Breakfast Club 08:00 – 08:50hrs	Child 2 (or more from the same family) 08:00 – 08:50hrs	Early Bug Club 08:30-08:50
Regular bookings/bookings made at least 24 hours in advance		



Ladybird Playgroup Thriplow CIO – Fee Policy
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£7.25 per session	£7.00 per session	£4.25 per session
Short notice bookings (booked less than 24 hours in advance)		
£7.75	£7.50	£4.75

The fees for breakfast/early bug club are payable monthly.

The timescales for fee payments, as set out above, apply to Breakfast/early bug Club fees as well.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of the Ladybird Playgroup Thriplow CIO	
Held on (date)	
Signed on <i>behalf</i> of the Ladybird Playgroup Committee	
Role of signatory (e.g. chairperson etc.)	
Signed by Playgroup Leader/Deputy	
Name of Playgroup Leader/Deputy	