



All Age Groups

Basic Funding ONLY - OPT OUT

At Cats Whiskers, we have always included every child in every activity regardless of background, income, SEND or personal circumstances. We are a fully inclusive setting. We have always looked at families as individuals and done our best to support them so that ALL of our children have access to high quality provision. Unfortunately, the government has now created a 2 tier system where parents are meant to opt in or opt out of high quality provision. In our opinion, these things are not 'optional extras'. Every child should be given the best we can offer to enable them to have the best start in life. At Cats Whiskers, we have always had lower costs for children on lower incomes or in receipt of Two's Too funding and have used our discretion to support families that we know have been struggling over the years. We do not want to create a 'divide', however, it is now stated in guidance that we must if a parent chooses it. However, we hope none of you would want your child to miss out.

If you chose to OPT OUT of our 'All Inclusive Enrichment Package' your child will sadly NOT receive the following benefits:

- NO Breakfast, lunch, tea, healthy snacks, and drinks
- NO Meals prepared from scratch on site in 5* rated kitchen by our nursery chef
- NO Specialist music, sports (including LTA tennis), cooking & dance & drama sessions, activities & supplies
- NO Nursery outings and celebrations
- NO Records of achievements, photos, and written observations/reports
- NO Parent's evenings, meetings, and additional family support
- NO Speech and language support, development checks, & SEND support above the basic EYFS level

This list is not exhaustive.

Please note that the amount the nursery receives for funded hours is at least 34% lower than our basic running costs and without your support we will not be able to remain viable. The government funding does not support the costs of paying our staff annual leave, pension contributions, statutory sick pay, Business Rates, utilities, insurance, IT support & the annual training costs for their certificates in Paediatric First Aid, Food Hygiene, Safeguarding, Health & Safety & other relevant continuous training development courses in Early Years. None of these items are fully funded by the Early Years Funding yet they are a statutory requirement!

It also does not cover our management team and additional staff, including: Felicity (Director, Early Years Manager, Safeguarding Lead, SENCO) Greg (Facilities, Marketing & Enrichment Manager), Carol (Administration) our cooks, and our cleaners.

The Early Years Funding has been calculated on the assumption that all settings are working to their maximum ratios permitted & to the minimum numbers of qualified staff permitted, which is only one member of staff qualified as a Level 3 Practitioner or above, with the remaining staff being qualified at a Level 2 or unqualified within a room. At Cats Whiskers our fees enable us to ensure that all our permanent staff are qualified or working towards a relevant Childcare & Early Years Qualification up to a Level 6.