Childcare Terms & Conditions



These terms and conditions form the basis of our agreement with you under which we agree to provide childcare services to you. We may from time to time change these Terms and Conditions **without** giving You notice, but We will use Our reasonable endeavors to inform You as soon as is reasonably possible of any such changes.

Our records and reporting for your child are almost entirely electronic and we refer to that system as "Famly" throughout. By accepting this Agreement, you consent to us maintaining our records in this way and commit to ensuring all activity and information is recorded correctly. Incorrect or missing data such as Emergency Contacts will lead to suspension of childcare.

1. Our Obligations to you:

- 1.1 Inform you as soon as possible whether your application for a nursery place has been successful. Where we operate a waiting list, as far as is reasonably practicable we offer places in waiting list order, but based on the earliest free space available.
- 1.1.1 Nursery bookings MUST be a minimum of 2 sessions per week at all times, to ensure consistency for each child and, all weekly bookings MUST include a session on either a Monday or Friday to assist availability on a wider basis.
- 1.2 Provide the nursery place offered when you confirm and complete the Childcare Agreement offered within 3 days, that you still wish to take up the nursery place and have paid the non-refundable Registration Fee and Initial Childcare Fee. If you do not, the place may be withdrawn.
- 1.2.1 Nursery places are provisioned based on the requested booking pattern, until the last nursery day in the August before your child goes to school. Requests to change or extend this date are subject to our Admissions Policy.
- 1.3 Provide the agreed childcare facilities for your child at the agreed times (subject to any days when your child's nursery is closed). If the opening hours of your child's nursery change, we will give you as much notice of our decision as possible and, if necessary, work with you to agree a change to your child's hours at the nursery.
- 1.4 Where possible and subject to availability and staffing, accommodate any requests you may make for any additional sessions and/or extended hours of childcare at the nursery.
- 1.5 Provide you with appropriate updates as to your child's progress through the Famly system whenever possible, bearing in mind the staff prioritise time spent with the children during the day over Famly system updates. Brief verbal updates on handover or specific update discussions can be requested.
- 1.6 Notify you as soon as possible of any days on which your child's nursery will be closed, however fees are charged on a weekly booking basis, regardless of reasonable closure or inset training days.
- 1.7 Make available to any of your other children a place at the same nursery, ahead of any normal waiting list, however we cannot guarantee that a place will be available. A further Childcare Agreement and Initial Childcare Fee will be required, but without a further Registration Fee for siblings.
- 1.8 Nursery Village generally operates All Year Round (AYR) rather than Term Time Only (TTO) and places are booked on this basis. We only offer TTO places at our sole discretion and subject to staffing, for example for parents who are employed within the education sector. TTO pricing applies.

2. Your Obligations to us:

- 2.1 Validate your login details for Famly when sent and ensure all electronic records are up to date, including Parent Contact details. Your child's nursery place **WILL** be suspended where required information is missing, such as Emergency Contacts.
- 2.1.1 Access **MUST NOT** be given or shared with **ANY** individual, related or not, to your individual Famly login details. Access **MUST** only be via their own individual account, access to which can be requested via your Nursery.
- 2.2 You **MUST** complete your child's "About" record on Famly, including "Basic Info", Health" and "Permissions" sections before your child can start at our nursery.
- 2.2.1 You **MUST** provide both work and mobile numbers for each parent or carer **AND** at least **TWO** Emergency Contacts in addition to parents or carers **MUST** be provided. In the event you cannot be contacted, your Emergency Contacts are considered suitable and authorised to make care decisions for your child in your absence.
- 2.2.2 Immediately inform us of any material change to the information provided in your child's health record, in writing by email to Nursery Admin Support (<u>admin@nurseryvillage.co.uk</u>).

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- 2.3 Immediately inform us of any changes to your contact details, which **MUST** always be up to date on the Famly system.
- 2.3.1 Ensure a Parent, Carer or Emergency Contact who's details are recorded on the Famly system, remain available at short notice to collect your child at all times and are suitable to make decisions for and about your child where required.
- 2.4 Complete a Medication Form if you require our staff to administer any medicines to your child, which must be accompanied with a valid prescription. With the exception of Calpol, unprescribed medicine cannot be administered by nursery staff.
- 2.5 Immediately inform us if your child is suffering from any contagious condition, including vomiting and diarrhea, chicken pox, mumps, rubella and measles. For the benefit of the other children in the nursery, you must not allow your child to attend the nursery or for 48 hours after the symptoms are clear, if they are suffering from a contagious condition which could easily be passed on to another child during normal daily activities of the nursery.
- 2.5.1 Public Health England's "Spotty Book" forms the basis of all exclusion decisions on Medical Grounds, though attendance is at the Nursery Managers sole discretion in these cases.
- 2.6 Ensure your child is signed in and out of their nursery with a staff member, noting any relevant conditions or changes as well as stating who and when is expected to collect them that day.
- 2.7 Keep us informed as to the identity of the persons who will be collecting your child from our nursery, who should be recorded as a contact within Famly. If the person collecting your child is not usually responsible for collecting them, we may require proof of identity. If we are not reasonably satisfied that an individual is allowed to collect your child, we will not release your child into their care.
- 2.8 Inform us if your child is the subject of a Court Order and provide us with a copy of such order on request. Parents with proof of parental responsibility, will be granted access in all matters unless subject to a clear Court Order.
- 2.9 Immediately inform us if you are unable to collect your child from nursery by the official collection time. An unnotified Late Collection Fee of £45 may be applied at our sole discretion
- 2.10 Inform us using the Famly system as far in advance as possible, of any dates on which your child will not be attending the nursery. Sickness and Holidays must be recorded on Famly. All sessions remain chargeable.
- 2.11 Provide us with at least 2 month's notice of your intention to decrease the number of hours your child spends at the nursery or to withdraw your child from our nursery and end this Agreement. If insufficient notice is given you will be responsible for the full fees for your child for 2 months from the date of any change as if their hours had not decreased.
- 2.11.1 Children **MAY NOT** be withdrawn in their last 2 months before attending school (July and August) and fees remain payable regardless of attendance.
- 2.11.2 All absence is monitored in accordance with our Safeguarding Policy, with frequent or extended absence potentially leading to termination of your child's place in accordance with 6.2.3.
- 2.11.3 If your child is eligible and is currently claiming Government Childcare Funding, notice needs to be provided within the term preceding the term that your child is due leave. Funding **WILL NOT** be released early or without proper notice.
- 2.12 Comply with all published nursery policies, including fair treatment of others and appropriate tone of communication on site or via the Famly messaging facility. Please check with your Nursery or Nursery Admin Support for current policies.

3. Our Payment Terms

- 3.1 Our fees are based on a weekly booking pattern which shall be notified to you in advance of your child starting at the nursery. We may review these fees at any time but shall inform you of the revised amount at least 2 months before it takes effect. If you do not wish to pay the revised fee, you may end this Agreement by giving us 2 month's notice in writing.
- 3.2 Fees must be paid on a monthly basis in advance, **BEFORE the 1**st of the month in which childcare is to be provided, with payment arranged to arrive as cleared funds before the 1st by whatever method payment is made. You will receive an electronic invoice through Famly, with your actual weekly bookings and any additional sessions requested or used.
- 3.2.1 Invoices are normally issued between the 10th and 15th of the month prior to that being invoiced, leaving a minimum of 5 working days to effect payment in line with 3.2 above.
- 3.2.2 Unless a genuine error has been made, no sessions can be swapped, cancelled, credited or refunded once invoiced



- 3.3 A **£75 Registration Fee** and an Initial Childcare Fee is due to secure your place, accompanied by a signed Childcare Agreement. The Initial Childcare Fee is the higher of 2 weeks childcare sessions for the booking pattern requested or £200 and must be paid in advance when accepting your place offer.
- 3.3.1 This initial payment is <u>non-refundable</u> should you not take up your place or if you defer your start date by more than 3 months, when a new Childcare Agreement and Initial Childcare Fee will be required. A further Registration Fee would not be required.
- 3.3.2 Once your child has started their sessions, the applicable Initial Childcare Fee is deducted from your first invoices. Where Government Funding means the initial Childcare Fee is not used, it will remain on account and returned as a credit balance the month after your child leaves the nursery.
- 3.3.3 <u>From January 2026:</u> In all cases, a Direct Debit mandate **MUST** be completed on the Famly balance page and Automated Payments enabled, which will charge any outstanding balance on the 1st day of every month. You will not be able to access the Famly platform, until this has been completed.
- 3.3.4 Where Childcare Vouchers are used, they must be arranged in time to be applied to your account prior to the Direct Debit payment date and can take up to 5 working days to be processed. A remittance notification must be provided.
- 3.3.5 Tax Free Childcare payments **MUST** be made via the Famly System payment integration, in order to avoid delays or reconciliation errors. These payments can be "Automated" via Famly in the case of a single child, but **MUST** remain manually triggered where siblings also attend. Your Tax Free Childcare account must remain in funds.
- 3.3.6 Where a "manual" or "external" payment method is used, such as Tax Free Childcare via the Gov Childcare Portal rather than triggered through the Famly System, these payments are not readily reconciled to your Childcare Account. Where this means a Late Payment Fee has been applied as no remittance advice or evidence was provided, that Late Payment Fee **WILL NOT** be removed. **ANY** such payment method **WILL ALWAYS** attract a **£35 Payment Admin Fee**.
- 3.3.7 Under exceptional circumstances we may agree to accept payment by bank transfer though we will charge a **£35 Payment Admin Fee** for these payments. Debit or Credit Card payments cannot be accepted at any time.
- 3.4 If you have requested additional sessions or have been unable to collect your child by the official collection time and we have as a result provided you with additional childcare facilities, we will charge you for additional childcare monthly in arrears on the next invoice.
- 3.4.1 Once a request for additional sessions is accepted, a minimum of 7 calendar days is required to cancel that session unless or until it has been invoiced, after which it cannot be cancelled or credited.
- 3.4.2 Once a reduction in booked sessions is notified (2 months notice), we are under no obligation to restore the previous sessions and no advance booking to restore sessions will be accepted more than 3 months in advance. Where sessions are reduced and restored within 3 months, the entire period will become chargeable as if no reduction had occurred.
- 3.4.3 Where changes are made to pre-existing booking patterns, the new booking pattern **MUST** include a minimum of 2 sessions per week at all times, to ensure consistency for each child and, all weekly bookings **MUST** include a session on either a Monday or Friday to assist availability on a wider basis in line with clause 1.1.1 above. Changes to sessions will not be accepted on any other basis, except in the case of siblings joining and matching a pre-existing pattern.
- 3.5 If you fail to make payment in full by the due date we will enforce a £55 Late Payment Fee <u>per child</u>, for every calendar month (or part month) that your payment remains outstanding. Where you have already received a Late Payment Fee in the preceding 3 calendar months, the Late Payment Fee will increase to £150. Your childcare facilities may be withdrawn if payment is not made on time, including 2 or more consecutive late payment fees being applied to your account.
- 3.6 No refund or discount will be given for periods where your child's nursery place is unfilled due to illness or holidays, including extended holidays or absences. This includes **ALL** recurring booking items such as Early Drop Offs.
- 3.6.1 Where nurseries are closed on **ALL Bank Holidays** or over Christmas (December 24th to January 1st inclusive), **ALL** normal weekly booking fees remain payable to secure your child's nursery place.
- 3.6.2 Our nurseries will be closed for two inset training days, in order to maintain standards and staff development, during which your normal session fees will apply. No less than 2 months notice will be given of an Inset Training Day via Famly.
- 3.7 Where a delay (up to 3 months) is requested to your child's start date, any bookings already invoiced or paid in advance will not be credited. No refund or cancellation will apply.
- 3.7.1 Where a delay of more than 3 months is requested, your place and Initial Childcare Fee is forfeit and to secure the delayed place, a new Childcare Agreement and Initial Childcare Fee will be required but not a Registration Fee.



- 3.8 Where a fee rate changes after a child's birthday that change will take effect from the first day of the following billing period.
- 3.9 Any Discounts offered are applied at our sole discretion and may not normally be combined. Should multiple Discounts be applicable, only the largest single reduction will be applied or in the case of a Sibling Discount, applied to the oldest child until they leave the nursery.
- 3.9.1 No Discounts will be applied where a child is claiming Government Funding, except where promotional pricing is in place.

4. Government Funding, Support & Childcare Vouchers

- 4.1 Payment methods such as Government Funding, Working Parent Childcare, Childcare Vouchers or Tax Free Childcare are accepted at our sole discretion, with payment required in sufficient time to arrive in cleared funds and be applied to your account **before the 1st of each month.** Our Payments Terms Section 3 apply in full.
- 4.2 It remains your responsibility to ensure your application to the Local Authority or Voucher Provider, and for any required Eligibility Code is completed correctly and on time, in line with their requirements.
- 4.3 Our Nurseries operate all year round and not just Term Time Only. Any Government Funding will be distributed annually at our discretion, typically at 11 hours or 22 hours per week for All Year Round placements.
- 4.4 Any Government Funding will be evenly distributed to your first applicable sessions, with any remaining hours being billed at the normal session rates.
- 4.5 Government Funding explicitly does not cover ALL elements of your childcare costs, such as consumables like nappies, provision of food, or activities and investments in enhanced educational provision.
- 4.5.1 Where at our sole discretion, funding is routinely falling short of our childcare provision costs, additional charges such as Consumables, Lunch Fees or Activity Fees may be added to each Government Funded session. These fees form part of your weekly session booking and are considered as such for section 3.6.
- 4.5.2 Where parents may choose not to pay for **ANY** additional costs such as consumables, they are free to remove their child from any and all sessions where those costs are incurred, such as during meal times. No credit for those periods will be given.
- 4.5.3 No Nursery Discounts may be applied to accounts using Government Funding in full or in part, except where promotional pricing is in place.
- 4.6 All costs incurred under this Agreement, remain your sole responsibility until paid, regardless of Government Funding or use of Childcare Vouchers and our payment process should be completed where valid vouchers or entitlement payments are not made.
- 4.7 Where Government Funding means the Initial Childcare Fee is not used, it will remain on account and returned as a credit balance the month after your child leaves the nursery.

5. Suspension

- 5.1 We may suspend the provision of childcare to your child, whilst ALL normal session fees apply, at any time if:
- 5.2.1 You have failed to pay any fees in line with section 3.5. In the case of Government Funding, additional hours will be suspended and if unresolved, we may serve you notice to terminate your Government Funded provision entirely.
- 5.2.2 Your child's behavior at the nursery is deemed by us to be unacceptable or endangers the safety and wellbeing of the other children at the nursery.
- 5.2.3 The suspension shall continue whilst we try and address these problems with you and fees remain payable in full, unless or until a termination is triggered..
- 5.3 If the period of suspension exceeds 1 month, either of us may terminate this Agreement by serving a further 1 months written notice.



6. Termination

- 6.1 You may end this Agreement at any time, giving us at least 2 month's notice, in writing and which is valid **ONLY** once acknowledged as received. However, once your child is eligible to claim the Government Funded sessions, notice needs to be provided within the term preceding the term that your child is due leave.
- 6.2 We may immediately end this Agreement if:
- 6.2.1 You have failed to pay your fees. In the case of Government Funded sessions, additional hours will be terminated and if unresolved, we may serve you notice to terminate your Government Funded provision entirely.
- 6.2.2 You have breached any of your obligations under this Agreement or have breached our Policies & Procedures and you have not or cannot put right that breach within a reasonable period of time of us asking you to.
- 6.2.3 Your child does not attend regularly or for an extended period, whether paid or notified.
- 6.2.4 You behave unacceptably, as we will not tolerate any physical or verbal abuse towards staff or any other visitors to our premises, whether in person, on the phone or via any other media.
- 6.2.5 Your child's behavior is unacceptable or endangers the safety and wellbeing of any of the other children at the nursery.
- 6.2.6 We take the decision to close your child's nursery. We will give you as much notice as possible of such a decision.
- 6.3 You may immediately end this Agreement if:
- 6.3.1 We have breached any of our obligations under this Agreement and we have not or cannot put right that breach within a reasonable period after you have drawn it to our attention in writing.

7. Employment of Staff

- 7.1 If, during this Agreement and for a period of 6 months after the termination of this Agreement, you (directly or indirectly):
- 7.1.1 Employ or otherwise engage the services of any member of our staff who has had contact with your child under this Agreement in the last 12 months; and/or
- 7.1.2 Allow or permit the provision of any childcare services to your children by any member of our staff who has had contact with your child under this Agreement in the last 12 months; then you shall pay to us a figure representing 20% of the relevant member of staff's gross annual salary at the time they left our employment and/or services. This figure represents the costs to us of recruiting a suitable replacement member of staff.
- 7.2 Babysitting outside normal nursery hours is excluded from clause 7.1 above, however this is a contract between parent or carer and the member of staff. We offer no recommendation and can take no responsibility.

8. Safeguarding & Privacy

- 8.1 We have an obligation to report any instances where we consider that a child may have been neglected, abused or otherwise be of concern to us as detailed by our Safeguarding Policy, to the relevant authorities. We may do so without your consent and/or without informing you at any point.
- 8.2 If you have any concerns regarding the services we provide, please discuss these with your child's keyworker. If these concerns have not been resolved to your satisfaction, please contact the Nursery Manager.
- 8.2.1 Customer satisfaction and a high standard of childcare provision is of paramount importance to Nursery Village and any concerns or complaints will be reported to the appropriate Director for review or can be sent to us directly: <u>complaints@nurseryvillage.co.uk</u>
- 8.3 Given the general rise in nut and other allergies, with the support of parents we aim to keep our facilities NUT FREE. Parents are requested not to send food or empty food packaging into the nursery. Parents are also requested not to use creams, sun creams, oils etc on their child that may contain nut oil, e.g. arachis, as this may have severe consequences to another child or member of staff.
- 8.4 We carry a wide range of resources and equipment at our nurseries. Unless we specifically request otherwise your child should not bring any of their own toys to nursery. If they do bring toys with them, we accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to those toys.

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- 8.5 All personal information that we may use will be collected, processed, and held in accordance with the provisions of UK General Data Protection Regulation ("GDPR") and the Data Protections Act 2018.
- 8.5.1 Please note such personal information will include but not be limited to security and safeguarding measures such as CCTV footage, which may be released without your consent where safeguarding concerns arise. Further information can be found in our Privacy Notice as referenced in paragraph 8.6 below.
- 8.5.2 CCTV footage is **NOT** monitored and is used at our sole discretion, released where required as per 8.5.1. It's use for review, standards or investigative purposes, does **NOT** mean it is readily available to view and will be made available to parents **ONLY** under certain circumstances and at our sole discretion. To be clear, in almost all circumstances for reasons such as child or staff privacy, any review with parents would only include our summary findings after a CCTV review, rather than viewing the footage directly.
- 8.6 For complete details of Our collection, processing, storage, and retention of personal data including, but not limited to, the purpose(s) for which personal data is used, the legal basis or bases for using it, details of Your rights and how to exercise them, and personal data sharing (where applicable), please refer to Our Privacy Notice available from our website: www.nurseryvillage.co.uk/privacy
- 8.7 As part of our fulfilment of the Early Years Foundation Stage we regularly photograph and sometimes video the children taking part in their activities, which is regularly documented on Famly, which you expressly accept as part of these Terms & Conditions.
- 8.7.1 Imagery is never published outside the secure Famly system without the consent of the parent or carer and you **MUST NOT** screenshot or otherwise capture, images of any kind published through the Famly system. A breach of this clause will be considered grounds for immediate Termination.
- 8.7.2 Our guidelines are as follows;
 - (1) Photographs in the nursery are only taken with nursery cameras or authorised devices such as Tablet computers.
 - (2) Staff or Visitor mobile phones with or without cameras are not allowed into active nursery areas.
 - (3) Photographs taken of the children are stored on the nursery computer and are password protected.
 - (4) Photographs are vetted for suitability before being printed or published.
 - (5) All children are dressed appropriately before pictures are taken.
 - (6) No photographs are taken in sensitive areas such as toilets or nappy changing rooms.
 - (7) Parents are requested not to use their mobile phones within the nursery premises unless absolutely necessary.
- 8.7.3 If you do not wish your child to be photographed or recorded for purposes other than through Famly in order to fulfil our obligations under the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), or through the operation of our secure CCTV system, please inform us in writing. This may mean we are unable to maintain your childcare provision.

9. General

- 9.1 If the nursery that your child attends has to close, or we take the decision to close due to events or circumstances which are outside our control, we shall be under no obligation to provide alternative childcare facilities to you. We are unable to offer any refunds or compensation for closure or suspension of nursery activities as a result of third party action, inclement weather, fire, flood or any other event beyond our control.
- 9.2 If a nursery closure (where clause 9.1 does not apply) exceeds 7 days in duration (excluding any days when the nursery would otherwise be closed), we will credit you with an amount that represents the number of days the nursery is closed in excess of 7 days.
- 9.2.1 Where childcare is denied, due solely to reduced availability of staffing, a credit for any private/paid sessions will be given where a reasonable alternative or swapped session was not possible.
- 9.3 We cannot be held liable for the loss or damage of any item belonging to the public on the premises. This particularly applies to children's clothing and toys as well as motor vehicles, prams and buggies.