

April 2019 – March 2020 Fees and Government-funded Childcare Information

Fees

We are committed to giving parents good notice of any changes to our fees in order that they can plan ahead. From April 2019 there will be an increase in the fees we charge (see table below).

The biggest cost for the Nursery and Farm Adventurers is staff. Staff costs account for 88% of the total costs. When it comes to recruiting and retaining good staff (which is essential to keep the quality of care in the nursery good) we face several pressures including a scarcity of nursery practitioners across the city and high competition in recruitment. In addition, we are committed to being as good an employer as we can and to reward staff with the 'real living wage' (as defined by the Living Wage Foundation) as far as we can as well as running a staff wellbeing programme that gives non-financial reward. The Living Wage Foundation has increased its rate to £9.00 per hour this year (around 3% increase). The National Living Wage (statutory minimum) has risen by around 5% (depending on age group). While a pay rise is good news for our staff, it does have a cost, which we have to recover through our fees.

In addition to the staff costs, general inflation impacts the other costs for the organisation. Current inflation figures show the CPI is currently running just under 3%.

The average rise that we've put in place for the provision in the Nursery and Farm Adventurers is around 4%. This is what we calculate will be required to keep track with the increased costs of staff and the general inflation in the economy.

Government-funded childcare

You may be aware from national media that the Early Years sector is under great pressure because of the Government's policy to offer additional free childcare to some parents (the universal 15-hours and extended 30-hours free childcare). The rate that Early Years settings are paid for these 'free' hours is below the cost rate of providing them (we make a loss of approximately £1.40 per hour for each funded child).

Unlike many settings we have, to date, placed no restriction on when free sessions could be used, however this approach is not sustainable. Following a review, we have decided that with effect from 1 April 2019 funded hours will only be allocated between 9.00am and 4.00pm. If your booked session includes hours outside of these times, then they will be chargeable at the rate applicable to your session (please see table below).

Please note that meal charges will be payable for each day that you receive funding. Breakfast will be charged for any session starting before 9.00am, lunch will be charged for any session up to and including 1.00pm and tea will be charged for any session after 4.00pm. If you would prefer to bring a packed lunch for any of the meals, please ensure you have advised us on the appropriate paperwork.

We would like to remind you that all charges remain payable even if your child is absent from Nursery or Farm Adventurers due to illness or holiday etc (Nursery and Farm Adventurers closure days will not be chargeable).

As a charity and community-based facility we do our best to keep prices affordable for parents and carers. We recognise that childcare is expensive and can make difficult choices for parents wishing to return or continue to work. We are also committed to offering good childcare and providing the resources and high-quality staff needed rather than aiming for the cheapest possible delivery.

I hope this helps to explain the decision we've come to on the fees and funding and thank you for your continued support and understanding. If you have any queries about the changes, please do get in touch.

April 2019 – March 2020 Fees

9 months-2 years	1pm	4pm	5pm	6pm
8am	£36.40	£57.70	£62.90	£66.60
9am	£33.30	£54.60	£58.30	£61.90
1pm		£30.20	£33.30	£35.90
2-3years	1pm	4pm	5pm	6pm
8am	£33.60	£55.70	£59.90	£62.50
9am	£29.40	£51.50	£55.70	£59.30
1pm		£26.80	£29.40	£32.60
3-5years	1pm	4pm	5pm	6pm
8am	£33.60	£53.60	£58.80	£62.00
9am	£28.40	£49.40	£53.60	£58.80
1pm		£25.70	£28.40	£32.00
Farm Adventurers	12pm	4pm		
9am	£20.00			
1pm		£20.00		
Breakfast				£1.70
Lunch				£3.40
Tea				£2.80

April 2019 – March 2020 Hourly rates of additional sessions chargeable for children receiving funding

2-3years	1pm	4pm	5pm	6pm
8am	£6.72	£6.96	£6.66	£6.25
9am	£7.35	£7.36	£6.96	£6.59
1pm		£8.93	£7.35	£6.52
3-5years	1pm	4pm	5pm	6pm
8am	£6.72	£6.70	£6.53	£6.20
9am	£7.10	£7.06	£6.70	£6.53
1pm		£8.57	£7.10	£6.40
Farm Adventurers	12pm	4pm		
9am	£6.67			
1pm		£6.67		
Breakfast				£1.70
Lunch				£3.40
Tea				£2.80