

Eskbank nursery 2019 yearly over view

We thank you for continuing to support Pinocchio's at Eskbank; it has been a pleasure to share your child's adventure through learning.

At Pinocchio's we believe in working in partnership with our parents to support and develop your child while taking on board any suggestions for improvements and praise. This year we are happy to say we have continued to provide/have achieved the following:

Staff/ training:

- We have achieved the Investors in People for the last 18 years and for the second year running achieved Investors in Young People. This year we have been accredited Investors in People Gold. We value all our staff and know you do too.
- From January 2020, we pay all qualified staff the real living wage £9.30 per hour or above, regardless of age. We pay a higher rate than the government recommendations for our apprentice practitioners too.
- We have continued to raise money for The Edinburgh children's hospital charity, with the support from all the families the rolling total of the company is £70, 000 raised by the end of 2019. We would like to thank all families who supported the Oor Wullie trail this year, what an amazing event to be part of. Oor Woody looks at home in our front entrance.
- To ensure all staff are up to date with current guidelines and legislation, staff attend in-house training sessions, to ensure practitioners provide correct learning experiences and better outcomes for children.
- On our Annual full staff training day gained knowledge and understanding of child initiated play, floor book planning, responsive planning and self evaluation using HGIOELC guidelines. Staff had the opportunity to share good practice with other practitioners from our sister nurseries, on the intergenerational programme, Forest Schools, Eco-Schools, Numeracy, Literacy and Health and Wellbeing.
- Along with support from John and Karen our nursery gardeners, the children and staff have produced another year of a wonderful selection of fruit and vegetables, from huge carrots, leeks, Brussels sprouts, beetroot strawberries and tomatoes.
- All staff are supported and encouraged to participate in training, and have updated their knowledge on Food Hygiene, Child Protection and First Aid
- Our recent informal parents evening and Christmas Fair was a huge success, we raised a massive £330.00 for Edinburgh's Children's Charity.
- The nursery fully embedded Loose Parts play both indoors and out, which is in line with our Eco Schools program.
- The younger children enjoy daily outdoor experiences. It has a wide range of sensory experiences such as areas for children to explore different textures such as sand, bark, mud, compost, wood, water and music walls
- All displays throughout the nursery as more natural and consist of children's own work, allowing the children's own work to be the focus.
- We have had a very successful holiday club for our school children; they have been on lots of adventures to local places of interest from the museums in Edinburgh, visits to Ratho climbing centre and lots of den building and fun in the paddling pools.
- The children have been participating in lots of Forest School learning. They have been fully involved in risky play from den building both in the nursery garden and local woodlands to using our own fire pit and toasting marshmallows, making popcorn to cooking hot dogs for snack.
- We work in collaboration with our Lasswade school children and have formed an Afterschool adventure club, visiting places of interest and weekly Forest School sessions after school.
- The children have been fully involved in assessing risk both indoors and are involved in writing our risk assessments.
- Our nursery champions have been busy delivering yoga, baking, music and movement sessions and Kirsty supporting the Eco Schools committee.
- The children have been receiving weekly tennis lessons from Michael, who is a qualified tennis coach, using our very own tennis court. We also use the tennis court for football, yoga and bowling. The tennis court was also excellent for our very busy sports and Graduation day.
- We are supported by our cleaner Robert, who cleans the nursery each night so that staff can have more time to focus on the children.

Better outcomes for children/partnerships with parents/ carers:

- We offer fruit as a mid morning snack at 10am; we ensure that our fruit bowl is filled with fruit for the children and parents / carers to take.
- Our nursery continues to provide events to celebrate achievements, and to encourage parental involvement such as graduation, sports day, summer and Christmas outings and Christmas party.
- Parental involvement has been further developed with our regular parent feedback questionnaires; these have been a great insight to continually improve the provision.
- The breakfast and afterschool club has enabled us to form an excellent partnership with Kings Park Primary, Woodburn Primary and St. David's Primary schools, as well as offering a service which allows families to be together until 12years old.
- To further enhance our Intergenerational project we have had a few Grandparents come to visit us at the nursery, they have enjoyed visiting the children, playing outside and baking.
- Our very experienced and knowledgeable chef Nicky provides delicious and nutritious home-cooked meals. She consults with staff, carers and children, ensuring she caters for all children's needs. She has also used the nursery crops in her meals, and supports the children to research new recipes to include all the delicious crops.
- The nursery offers extra curricular activities such as Mini Kickers, Bambino beats, Rugby Tots, Judosaurus and Dance a Book, which enables effective partnerships with other professionals and gives the children opportunities to take part in activities to promote their health and wellbeing.
- We have successfully engaged in our intergenerational project with Archview Lodge Care Home, and have had many lovely visits to see the residents. The staff and children have enjoyed participating in arts and crafts, singing and a Halloween party with the residents. This has been extremely beneficial to both the children and the residents and we are looking forward to this continuing and developing. The staff are looking forward to further developing the fantastic relationships with the residents and staff at Archview Care Home. We have invited the residents to our Nativity play also.
- The nursery minibus has been very busy this year, going on weekly recycling centre visits. Regular visits to TKMAXX to recycle clothing. Lots of exciting trips such as to the new Forth Road Bridge, Fairy garden the beach. We have many more outings for the year ahead.

Partnerships with Midlothian Council for preschool grant funding:

- Successful partnerships with Midlothian Council have ensured consistent support and guidance from our teacher principle teacher, and our 0-3 improvement officer, which ensures that the children have daily access to a broad and varied range of learning experiences.
- We have availability for children who are eligible for the current 600 hours (3-5 year olds) and Good to be Two's (this is 16 hours per week term time, 38 weeks per year.)
- Midlothian Council supports with providing a wide range of training courses such as: child protection, Food Hygiene, First Aid, Capable twos, quality observations and Schemas.

Grant funding

Grant funded hours are deducted from your monthly fees in advance. You only pay for any optional non grant funded hours. Please see below for more information on the 1140 hours options from 1st August 2020.

Change to billing

From 1/1/20 all accounts will be billed calendar monthly, which means you only pay for days booked each month. This means monthly billing will now vary from month to month. (All 10 days the nursery is closed you will not be charged).

Nursery holidays

CLOSED Wednesday 1/01/20 and Thursday 2/01/20 **New Year Break (2 days)**

CLOSED Thursday 9/04/20 **Full Staff Training Day (1 day)**

CLOSED Friday 10/04/20 and Monday 13/04/20 **Easter Break (2 days)**

CLOSED Friday 25/12/20 to Thursday 31/12/20 **Christmas Break (5 days)**

Tax Free Childcare

Tax-free childcare is a digital service to help parents pay for childcare. **For every £8 a parent pays into their childcare account, the government will add an extra £2, therefore covering 20% of your child care cost!** Parents can then use that money to pay their childcare provider. **Any pre school child, any age and any family.**

Pinocchio's have parents already set up using this successful; you will get a unique reference number that we then match your fees easily. Eskbank reference is 5001 9078 889.

If you would like to find out more about this service you can visit www.childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk or you can call them

on 0300 123 4097.

We look forward to working in continued partnership with parents and carer's. Where you are actively involved in your child's individual care and learning, where nursery is a home from home.

We continually seek to improve the facilities and amenities on offer to parents, children and employees by welcoming suggestions on how to improve our service. One of the ways that we do this is through our 'Parent's Group Meetings' which we would invite you to become involved in.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Kind regards,

Katrina Weir
Operational Director

Pinocchios 1140 Hours Options from 1st August 2020 (All 3-5 Year olds)

Free government grant funded hours provided, no money required for deposit or grant funded time at Pinocchios.

Placement will be offered over 50 weeks/ 22 hours and 45 minutes grant funding per week

Option 1: Monday & Tuesday 8am-5pm, Friday 8am-12.45pm.

Option 2: Wednesday & Thursday 8am-5pm, Friday 1.15pm-5pm.

Please circle which option you would like to book for 1/8/20 and return the slip to your Manager.

- If you require there will be the option to have extra hours: IE For an earlier drop off 7.30-8 and later pick up 5-6pm (with additional charge to parents).
- If you require there will be the option to have extra session 7.30-1, 1-6pm or 7.30-6 (with additional charge to parents).
- Please note if your child is under 3 years and not yet eligible, still return the slip as we will book and hold the placement you require. For further information please speak to your Manager.
- We require you to confirm any extra sessions or hours that you will be requiring for us to hold for you. *All existing parents will have priority for placements, however you must let us know by 17/1/20*

Please indicate choices below: