



Gilmerton nursery 2019 yearly over view

We thank you for continuing to support Pinocchio's at Gilmerton; 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 successfully implemented Nursery Champions – Daniel as our Literacy champion who delivered very informative sign a long training. Blair who is our Science Champion who now does a Science Class on a Wednesday. Lauren Reid who is our Community / Baking champion. Lauren has created successful links within the community and is in the process of creating a Pinocchio's Gilmerton Recipe book with the children.
- We have introduced sign a long (children's sign language) – the staff are beginning to use this in their daily conversations with the children along with story and song time sessions.
- We have started 2 optional extra curricular classes- 'Bumble bee sports' – a physical session, which develops skills used within different sports. Caterpillar Music, these are music and movement sessions. The children are enjoying both classes.
- The staff are now becoming more confident with self evaluation – this has impacted on the children receiving high quality care and a better environment for the children to learn and develop in.
- There is a clear one to one and monitoring system set up by the manager to ensure as a Nursery we are meeting training and development needs of all the staff.
- To ensure all staff are up to date with current guidelines and legislation, I have provided 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.
- We are supported by our cleaner Ewelina, 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 are holding termly Parent Forum meetings to discuss future improvements and current best practice.
- We have arranged visits to Erskine Care home on a regular basis to begin our Intergenerational journey. This is at the beginning stages; we have had really successful visits and aim to carry out a visit every 2 weeks.
- All our meals and snacks are carefully prepared to a high standard by our Chef Theo. He ensures that all the children's dietary requirements are met and have had feedback from the parents and children whilst creating our menu.
- 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.
- The children have been involved in helping to plant new plants for our garden, this summer we had; mint, rhubarb, carrots and potatoes.
- Improvements have been made to our nursery garden; the Junior Room and Early Learning garden have joined to offer more space and exploration. The children have been enjoying the large loose parts block play which is used within our new construction area. We have purchased new outdoor story books and have created a cosy reading area for the children to relax in. The baby / toddler room are enjoying their water wall feature, sand pit and mud kitchen.
- All 3 playrooms have changed the layout of the environment to ensure greater exploration and accessibility.

- The baby / toddler room is much cosier, with large canopies, sensory lights and natural resources.
- The Junior Room is supporting a much liked schema – transporting. The staff ensure that the children have access to a variety of sensory items each day to develop transporting from one box to the other.
- The Early Learning have developed their construction area, this is now bigger allowing more space to build and be creative.
- We have continued to raise money for The Edinburgh children’s hospital charity, with the support from all our 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 of our Heriot-Watt nursery.
- We have continued to use our local facilities library, local shops, play parks, woodland areas and drum estate and have had really good feedback and support in return.
- Our nursery continues to provide events to celebrate achievements, and to encourage parental involvement such as graduation, Grandparent’s Day, Sibling Day, sports day, parent’s evenings, curricular nights and Nativity show.
- The staff have successfully sourced and provided loose parts resources throughout the playrooms. All resources are open ended, encouraging role-play, imagination and problem solving.
- Staff have focused on making the nursery environment more natural and nurturing. The displays are of the children’s own work.
- All playrooms have access to their own i-pads and tablets and have been using these to update children’s learning journals. The children also have timed access to the tablets to enhance their ICT skills.
- We are fully involving our parents and carers in the setting, such as curriculum evenings, Christmas fair and parent questionnaires. New initiatives have been introduced to encourage parental involvement such as: bed time stories; this is for a parent and child to choose a book from the nursery library and take it home to read at their leisure.

Partnerships with Edinburgh Council for preschool grant funding:

- Successful partnerships with Edinburgh Council being able to continue to deliver Grant Funded placements for the 3-5 year olds. As part of 1140 hours pilot scheme, we have been allowed to offer all our registered 3-5 year old children 1140 funded hours’ placements.
- Successful partnerships with Edinburgh Council have ensured consistent support and guidance from principle teachers who evaluate the nursery and provide feedback they ensure that the children have daily access to a broad and varied range of learning experiences.
- Edinburgh Council provide a wide range of training for staff, such as Child protection, Food Hygiene, Sign a long, planning and self-evaluation.

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, any family.**

Pinocchios have parents already set up using this successful; you will get a unique reference number that we then match your fees easily. Gilmerton reference is 5000 1075 837.

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: