

Heriot watt nursery 2019 yearly over view

We thank you for continuing to support Pinocchio's at Heriot watt; 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.
- 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 staff 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.
- All staff are supported and encouraged to participate in training, and have updated their knowledge on Food Hygiene, Child Protection and First Aid
- The staff have implemented robust quality assurance systems, to ensure better outcomes for the children.
- Self-evaluation has enabled the staff to ensure the correct resources and experiences are offered to a high standard for all.
- We are supported by our Jill our cleaner, 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 continue to offer nursery events such as the nursery Sports Day, Graduation, Christmas Fun Fair and Early Learning Christmas show.
- We have now introduced parent suggested events such as our Grandparent week, Parent baking day and our Family outdoor day. We will continue this in the New Year with our suggestions from our families.
- Becky and Laurie have fully implemented nursery dance classes for the children in all the playrooms each week.
- Our garden has been refurbished with suggestions from the children and parents. We have a large loose part shed filled with various resources, crates and wooden planks for the children to explore and develop their imagination through play. We have also had our large tepee built in the garden, where the children love to play inside or relax!
- We have fully implemented the daily mile initiative within the nursery with support from The Oriam which is teaching our children the importance of keeping fit and healthy through physical exercise.
- We have introduced a large selection of story sacks for families to enjoy at home; these have been well used and are supporting early literacy and quality story time with families.
- We have also introduced a large selection of schematic play sacks which families are able to take home and support their children with schemas they may be exploring.
- We are supported within the Nursery by Dawn, our Chef, who provides delicious home-cooked meals. This year Dawn has introduced a cultural meal, children's choice and recipe of the month into her monthly menu. She also has a large selection of copies of these recipes on a board outside the kitchen for our families.
- We have a fully implemented Nursery Champion initiative and have a champion for; our community, literacy, yoga, loose part play, dance, schematic play, and sensory play, Spanish, Book Bug and Eco Schools. In 2019 the champions have been working towards various aims and goals in improving the life of the center and learning experiences for the children and plan to continue this in 2020. Stacey has recently introduced a nursery Yoga class and Carmen has begun a nursery Spanish Class. Both classes have been trialed in the Early Years and Learning room and we plan to further progress this into our other rooms in 2020 through play and everyday routines rather than classes. The children have also began to take part in our nursery champions with one of our Early learning children

choosing to be our Blenham House champion as he is always eager to go visit the residents and has formed great relationships with them and the staff.

- We are creating a strong link with The Oriam and have been taking the children up to regular inflatable sessions and they have created a multi sports class for our early years and learning children each week in the nursery.
- We have embedded a cultural day each month, where the children have been choosing a country from the world map. The staff have then celebrated this country through appropriate age and stage activities and learning opportunities. The chef has also been participating in this through adding a cultural meal to her menu each month to encourage the children to try various foods from around the world.
- We have continued to celebrating various festivals and family traditions from parent's suggestions and working along side our families to make these special events inclusive for all children.
- To promote health and wellbeing in the nursery for all children we have a monthly fruit and vegetable tasting, where the children choose a various fruit and vegetable for us all to taste. This has allowed the children to explore various foods and teach them the importance of healthy eating.
- Staff have been given opportunities to access regular training as well as refresher courses in which they learn new techniques that can be put into place and be passed onto their teams, such as fire awareness training.
- All playrooms have access to their own iPads.
- We have a strong link to our community and have been on various community visits throughout the year, including trips to the museum, local shops, local play parks, soft play and galleries. We have a great partnership with Blenham House Care Home and visit them fortnightly. They are also planning to visit us and attend our Early Learning Christmas Show this year.
- We continue to gain great feedback from the Care Inspectorate, who stated in their last report "Staff knew the children well and could describe their needs, interests and age and stage of development. This interaction helped the children feel confident and settled in the nursery".
- 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.

Partnerships with Midlothian 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 provides a variety of training courses, such as first aid, food hygiene, child protection, schemas, Building the Ambition and planning.

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: