

Penicuik nursery 2019 yearly over view

We thank you for continuing to support Pinocchio's at Penicuik; 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 cleaner Eric, 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 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 Heriot-Watt nursery.
- Our very experienced and knowledgeable chef Jill provides delicious and nutritious home-cooked meals. She consults with staff and children, ensuring she caters for all children's needs.
- 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 nursery offers extra curricular activities such as Mini Kickers, Rugby Tots, Dance a book and Caterpillar Music, which enables effective partnerships with other professionals and gives the children opportunities to take part in activities to promote their health and wellbeing.
- Our nursery continues to provide events to celebrate achievements, and to encourage parental involvement such as graduation, sports day, fundraising events, inviting grandparents to the nursery, 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.
- Our nursery has developed and embedded Loose Parts play both indoors and out, which allows the children to use their imaginations and problem solving skills.
- 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 successfully engaged in our intergenerational project with Cowan Court, and have had many lovely visits to see the residents. The staff and children have enjoyed participating in arts and crafts, singing Christmas songs with the residents. This is extremely beneficial to both the children and the residents and we are looking forward to this continuing and developing.
- We are looking into a parent forum that will begin after the year this is to gain more input and ideas from a parent's point of view. Please let Kathleen know if you would be interested in being part of this group.

- All playrooms have access to their own iPads and each nursery has a laptop which can be used within the playrooms to support staff when updating of the Learning Journals. The children have access to an iPad to allow them to conduct their own research.
- The children are supported to take part in risky play, using our new outdoors resources. They are enjoying exploring the new outdoor large wooden blocks, using them to problem solve, climb, jump and make dens.
- Our Early Learning garden has been updated with new astro turf and slabs for our bike area; the fixed climbing frame has been removed to allow more open ended play. The Tepee has been moved to allow more space for the children to move around. They now have direct access to the vegetable garden to allow them more freedom to look after their crops. We are looking forward to the final touches with improvements made in our mud kitchen area. The updates have been in consultation with staff and children.
- The children have enjoyed going out for adventures in the nursery mini bus to areas of interest in the local community.
- The children been helping in the nursery garden to grow plants, and vegetables. This summer we have grown potatoes, carrots, beetroot and a lovely white pumpkin. The children were supported by a parent helper who came into the nursery weekly. We are currently looking for a new garden parent/ carer/ grandparent helper. If you would like to come in regularly to the nursery to spend time with the children in the garden please let Kathleen know.
- We continue to use our local facilities: library, local shops, play parks and woodland areas. The outings have not only benefited the children's health and well being but supported any areas of interest. They have also then inspired further areas of interest only recently a trip lead to castles and knights.
- The children are enjoying their new natural indoor environments; staff research and knowledge has supported the changes, which have enabled more choice and independence for the children on a daily basis.
- The staff and children have successfully sourced and provided a variety of loose parts resources throughout all playrooms. All resources are open ended, encouraging role-play, imagination and problem solving.
- New indoor wooden blocks have been purchased, and children are enjoying problem solving, building and using their imaginations in the block playing area.

#### **Partnerships with Midlothian Council for preschool grant funding:**

- 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).
- Successful partnerships with Midlothian 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.
- Midlothian Council provides a wide range of training courses for staff, such as First Aid, Food hygiene, child protection, Autism 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.**

Pinocchios have parents already set up using this successful; you will get a unique reference number that we then match your fees easily. Penicuik reference is 5002 1494 762.

If you would like to find out more about this service you can visit [www.childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk](http://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**

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**Pinocchios 1140 Hours Options from 1<sup>st</sup> 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: