



Hillside Pre-School (Chorleywood) Ltd
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07 July 2010

Hillside Pre School Chorleywood - Annual Price Review 2010-2011

Dear Parents/Carers,

Another year has flown by at Hillside, and the government has had another year to change their funding mechanism for early years' education settings. I stress this information is correct at this time (July 2010) however with the ongoing cost cutting reviews going on please accept my apologies if I find myself having to write to you again with more changes and possibly further increased prices soon. I will try not to give too much complicated detail but give a summary of our new pricing mechanism which will start in September 2010.

Children who have not yet reached the term 'after' their 3rd birthday

The government are currently only funding children for free sessions from the term 'after' they turn three. Hillside has seen an increasing cost base this year whilst implementing government changes in staffing policy and significantly raising standards. As such, I regrettably have to announce a price increase from £15 per 3 hour session to £16.50 per 3 hour session (i.e. from 9.15 to 12.15) from September 2010. This will apply to all children who do not yet fall into the government funded category. The Lunch Club - which runs from 12.15 to 13.30 - will continue at £6.

However, it's not all bad, as once your child reaches the term 'after' their 3rd birthday, they will be entitled to 15 hours per week entirely free.

Children who have reached the term 'after' their 3rd birthday or beyond

The government are continuing to fund children from the term 'after' they turn three, for up to 15 hours per week. From September, we are also able to apply for a new type of funding - now that the Lunch Club is up and running - called 'flexible funding'. The great news with flexible funding is that the funding will cover both normal sessions and the Lunch Club, provided you are within your entitlement of **15** hours per week. This means you could use your entitlement to cover the cost of the Lunch Club provided you keep within your 15 hours.

Because it is grant based the following condition will have to apply:

You will have to nominate, in advance, all sessions - including the Lunch Clubs - you wish to use as these will be the sessions your child receives a grant for.

If you exceed your 15 hours per week:

We will charge £4.80 per hour for each hour your child attends over your 15 hour allowance. If your child attends 5 sessions per week, your 15 hours will effectively be exceeded if you choose to use the additional Lunch Club, the hourly rate of which is £4.80, hence that figure.

For example:

A child attending 3 morning sessions (3 x 3 hours) and 3 Lunch Clubs (3 x 1 hr 15 mins) is still within their 15 hours entitlement and would therefore be completely funded provided those sessions were nominated in advance.

A child attending 4 morning sessions (4 x 3 hours) and 4 Lunch Clubs (4 x 1 hr 15 mins) would now be using 17 hours a week. 15 of those hours would therefore be funded as before – provided they were nominated in advance – but the remaining 2 would need to be charged at the hourly rate of £4.80.

If you want to use the Lunch Club but have not nominated it in advance:

We still want to be flexible so your child is welcome to attend additional Lunch Club sessions - subject to availability – however, we would ask you to pay ‘on the door’ for those sessions. The charge would be £6 per Lunch Club and would apply whether or not you have exceeded your 15 hours entitlement. The charge is simply due to the fact that we are not able to apply for a grant for your child on an ad hoc basis.

Please try to be realistic when nominating the sessions you would like grants applied for, the administration of paying unused grants back to county is quite hard work and just increases our general cost base.

In summary then, Herts County Council’s general rule is that we can apply for grants up to 15 hours per week if the hours are nominated in advance and used. Any additional hours taken are chargeable as funding will not be provided whether or not the 15 hours have been exceeded.

I hope this hasn’t been too hard to follow, if you need to ask me any questions then please do not hesitate to contact me through Isaline at the pre-school and I will try and answer them.

I hope you all have a lovely summer holiday.

Kind Regards,

Christine Deeley - Treasurer

