

Hillside Pre-School

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Dear Parents/Carers

4th June 2009

Important Changes to the Funding of Hillside from September 2009

This letter is to inform you of changes occurring at Hillside from September 2009. The government is making up to 5 free 3 hour sessions available to all children the term after their 3rd birthday as part of their new pathfinder program (this compares to the current allowance of 5 free 2 ½ hour sessions). We at Hillside are to be part of a pilot that Herts are running to implement this scheme in the academic year 2009/2010. They have also implemented a new single early years funding formula. (SEYFF)

Price Rise, to all of you with 2 year olds up to 3 year olds before the term after their 3rd birthday I am afraid we are going to have to announce a modest price increase from September 2009. This is to cover the following:

- 1) General cost increases since the last time our fees went up (approx 2 years ago). Despite some thorough housekeeping this year on some of the bought in services there are still some costs rising.
- 2) With all the changes to the grant system, whilst promising to be more generous it will not be quite enough to cover the costs of running Hillside.

As a result from September 2009 we will increase our costs from £13.50 to £15 per session, this is still less than many of the nurseries/pre schools in our area.

The good news is that if your child is in the term after their 3rd birthday, Hillside will from Sep 09 be completely free to your child. (see the Pathfinder Program note below)

Additional Information:

The SEYFF: The government is now aiming to fund the private, voluntary and independent sectors in the same way that it funds its state school nurseries. If anyone is interested I can provide you with full details but it is good news in that we will be receiving slightly more money from the government for what we do for those children the term after their 3rd birthday. In return for that we will be providing a comparable service to that of the school nurseries eg inset days for our staff with the associated training.

The Pathfinder Program: In addition to the SEYFF the government now wants to ensure that it supplies a free place for up to 5 * 3 hour sessions per week for those children the term after their 3rd birthday. This is limited to the number of vacancies we have with our strict waiting list priorities.

I hope that you will understand the reason for the price increase and look forward to your continuing support. If you have any questions then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

Christine Deeley
Treasurer – Hillside Pre School

