



Dear Parents / Carers,

There has been a great deal of media coverage in recent days surrounding childcare provision and the critical challenges being faced by the sector.

We are writing to let you know that, like many other early years settings, First Steps is suffering financially at this time.

A significant portion of our income comes from government funding, and sadly we are only receiving a minimal increase in these funding levels from the Local Authority, despite our costs rising at an exponential rate.

Whilst we do not wish this to be a worry for our families, we do want to be honest with you and to tell you that we need your help and support in order to survive. We will do all that we can to continue offering an excellent service to your children, but in order to do so, it has become necessary for us to review our fees and charges.

Session fees & snack costs

From the start of the Summer Term 2023, our prices for unfunded hours will be increasing from £4.00 to **£4.50 per hour**. This means that each morning / afternoon session will cost £13.50 (3 hours) and a full day will cost £29.25 (6½ hours).

The charge for snacks will increase from £0.40 to **£0.75 per day**.

Please note that these changes will take effect from Monday 17 April 2023, when we return after the Easter holidays.

How can you help?

- This may sound very simple, but please pay your fees! Unless we receive the monies that are due, we will be unable to continue meeting our costs. We are very grateful to the majority of our families who do pay their fees promptly.
- If you would like your child / children to attend any additional sessions next term, that would be beneficial for our finances. Please speak to us about availability if you are interested.
- We will be launching new fundraising initiatives in the coming days and weeks in order to help boost our funds. Any support that you can give would be greatly appreciated.
- If you work for a company or know of any organisations that may have funds available to invest into local charities, please let us know.
- Please look out for further communications coming soon about ways that you may be able to assist us, e.g. volunteering your time.

If you have any queries or concerns about the content of this letter, please do not hesitate to come and speak to us.

Thank you for your continued support for First Steps Playgroup.

Yours sincerely,
Emma Gadsby & Elaine Belcher
Management Team

“Step by Step Succeeding and Achieving”

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