



Paddocks Pre-School
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4 April 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Paddocks Pre-school needs your help!

As an early years childcare provider, we currently receive funding from the government for most of the care and education we provide at Paddocks Pre-school.

Unfortunately, the amount of money we receive doesn't fully cover the costs of delivering funded 3&4 year old places – for every hour of funded care we provide, we make a loss of approximately £1. Over the course of a year, this adds up to around £585 per child.

This situation has become even more difficult recently because the funding levels that the government set in 2015, and which came into effect in 2017, have not been updated since to reflect rises in our costs (such as minimum wage increases, pensions contributions increases, inflation etc.). This means that every year, it becomes more and more difficult for us to remain financially viable.

The government has also stipulated we are not permitted to charge a 'top-up' fee, so it is important we find ways to finance our play materials, learning resources, consumables in general, varied activities, maintenance of the setting and more.

In order for us to remain open and continue to offer the high level of care we strive to provide, we are asking for donations to support the 3&4 year old funded hours. We have called this the **Voluntary Funding Supplement** and you may have seen it on your invoices. From the Summer Term 2019 we will be calculating this suggested donation at 70p/funded hour used. Please do consider this donation and if not financially viable for you, donate as much as you are able. Or consider offering some time to help fundraising, to be a parent helper, to help with essential maintenance or to do odd jobs. All donations along with fundraising and cost cutting efforts will help Paddocks remain open.

We are unfortunately not alone in the challenges we are facing: a recent survey by national charity the Early Years Alliance found that 42% childcare providers believe there's a chance they will have to close their setting in the next academic year due to underfunding.

Please help us safeguard Paddocks for present and future pupils.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at chair@paddockspreschool.com or our managers Lou and Harriet on manager@paddockspreschool.com.

Yours Sincerely

Alexandra Smith

Chairperson, Paddocks Pre-school Committee