

## Early Years Funding from Sept 2017

### Consumables

The following consumables are included in our 'Additional service' charges: -

All craft supplies, including paint, glue, paper and embellishments; messy play resources; gloves; disposable aprons; nappy bags; tissues, toilet rolls; hand towels; toilet cleaner; antibacterial gel; soap; Suncream; washing up liquid; 1st aid supplies; bin liners etc.

Did you know we use 3 boxes of tissues, 120 nappy sacks and over 100 gloves per week.

### Snacks and Cooking

All snacks- morning and afternoon, any foodstuffs plus containers used in our cooking and baking sessions are also covered by our additional charge.

Central Bedfordshire has announced the funding rates for September, unfortunately for us these rates have not increased. They remain at £4.25 per hour for a funded 3 and 4-year-old and probably will remain at this rate until 2020. These rates are effectively being 'frozen' so means with increases in the national living wage, pensions, food and general running costs most early years settings are having to charge parents for 'additional services' not covered by the Funding. From the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017, our hourly rate is going to be £4.25 plus an hourly supplementary fee of 25p. This is for all children attending Woodentops preschool. We have worked hard at keeping this increase as low as possible for parents but also ensuring Woodentops is viable.

### Additional Services

On the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016, the Department of Education issued the following guidance on '**Additional Services**'.

'You should use the government funding to provide high quality, flexible early education and childcare. You shouldn't use this to cover the cost of consumable items such as drinks, meals, nappies or additional services such as baby yoga, music lessons and school trips. You can charge parents for additional items or services, but you mustn't make these compulsory for parents taking up a publicly funded place for their child.'

From the 1<sup>st</sup> September the supplementary fee of 25p will cover the costs of all consumables, wipes, snacks and baking sessions. This additional charge also covers the cost of your child's diary, monthly newsletters, learning journals, craft supplies and personal care consumables.

# Woodentops Preschool

## Who is Eligible for the extra 15 hours?

From September, all working parents of children aged 3 and 4 are entitled to 1140 hours of Government funded Early Education and Childcare per year. So, 30 hours per week for the 38 weeks of the year that Woodentops is open.

Parents must meet the earnings criteria- To qualify each parent (or sole parent in a single family) must earn the equivalent of 16 hours per week on the national minimum wage- £120 and no more than £100,000 per annum.

Self-employed and parents on zero contracts are also eligible if they meet the average earnings criteria.

Families where one parent or neither parent is employed are not eligible. There are exceptions where if a parent is on parental, maternity, paternity, adoption or sick leave.

Those parents that are studying are only eligible if they are meeting the earnings criteria.

However, if one parent is meeting the earnings criteria and the other is in receipt of benefits related to caring responsibilities or disability, they will be eligible.

If parents are separated, then the parent that lives with the child and their partner will have to meet the earnings criteria.

Parents apply for the entitlement via the childcare choices HMRC website before their child becomes 3. Parents are given a code with an expiry date and must reapply at the end of each term. If parent becomes ineligible there is a grace period of half a term before the funding stops. Then their child will be entitled to the universal 15 hours.

# Woodentops Preschool

## **Tax free Childcare: 10 things parents should know.**

Tax-free childcare will be available to around 2 million households to help with the cost of childcare, enabling more parents to go out to work, if they want to, to provide greater security for their families.

### **1. You'll be able to open an online account.**

You'll be able to open an online account to cover the cost of childcare at Woodentops preschool. This is done through the Government website- [GOV.UK](http://GOV.UK)

### **2. For every 80p you pay in, the government will top up 20p.**

This is equivalent to the tax (20%) that most people pay, hence called 'tax-free'. The government will top up the account by 20%, up to the cost of £10,000, so giving 2,000 support per child per year.

### **3. To qualify parents, need to be in work for 16 hours or equivalent per week**

The scheme is designed to be flexible for parents.

### **4. Any eligible family can access the tax free scheme**

Tax free childcare does not rely on employers offering the scheme. Any working family can use the scheme.

### **5. Self-employed are eligible**

To support newly self-employed parents the government is introducing a 'start-up' period where the self-employed parents do not have to earn the minimum income level.

# Woodentops Preschool

**6. If you currently receive employer supported childcare then you can continue to do so.**

You can continue to use your employer voucher scheme for as long as your employer offers the scheme. Parents can still enter the scheme until April 2018.

**7. Parents and others can pay into their childcare account.**

This gives parents the flexibility to pay more money in in some months and less other times. Giving the parents the opportunity to build up the balance in preparation for those times when more childcare is required such as in the holidays.

**8. Process is as simple as possible**

You re-confirm your earnings circumstances every 3 months, the code you are given remains the same and the service is a simple log-in process. Parents can view the accounts for all their children.

**9. You'll be able to withdraw money from your account if you want to**

If your circumstances change or you no longer wish to pay in the scheme then parents can withdraw the money they have built up. If parents do, the government withdraws their 20% support.

**10. To be kept up to date follow this link: -**

<https://www.tax.service.gov.uk/childcare-schemes-interest/welcome>