



## Busy Lizzie's Nursery

5<sup>th</sup> Chichester Scout Hut, Whyke Road, PO19 8HS

07891815249

Ofsted Setting Reference Number: EY366537

claire@busylizziesnursery.org

15<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear parents/carer

We have recently been informed of our funding increase by West Sussex. Unfortunately, yet again, the funding does not match inflation, nor does it match the percentage increase of national minimum wage, let alone provide sufficient funds for our experienced staff and all the other costs associated with running quality early years education and care.

National minimum wage is due to rise by almost 10% in April. I can't only give our lowest paid staff this rise, therefore all staff are being given a 10% increase in salary. I do not begrudge them this at all, they are an exceptional team who provide exceptional education and care for the children and support for families. However, the nursery cannot afford this rise without also increasing our fees.

For those who aren't aware, the government do not give early years providers funding that equals their hourly fee, therefore for every funded child we make a loss as we are not allowed to charge top up fees (this is why many nurseries charge what seems an unreasonable amount for lunch!). With the new funding rate for 3&4 year olds we will be receiving £1.08 less per hour than what we actually charge meaning the nursery will be losing around £18,000 a year due to low funding from the government.

Therefore, having carefully calculated the running costs of the nursery (so that we can break even, not so that the shareholders can profit), I have decided that all fees must also be increased by 10%. I am aware that all families are facing the pressures of the increased cost of living and I do not enjoy having to add to that. As you may be aware, I am helping lead a campaign group – Early Years Equality – to fight the government for better funding. I believe that your children deserve better, my staff deserve better and that the answer shouldn't be to add more to families living costs. We will be protesting at Downing Street on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March – if anyone would like to join us that would be amazing!

The new fees as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 are:

	0-1 years	2 years	3-4 years
Hourly	7.15	6.60	6.05
3-hour session	20.90	19	17.60
6-hour session	41.25	37.95	34.65

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am not contactable out of nurseries hours on the nursery phone but an email or Facebook message will usually receive a response from me fairly promptly if it is important.

I appreciate your understanding and support.

Kind regards

Claire Kenyon  
Manager