



# Over The Rainbow

Pre-School & Out of School Club

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[www.overtherainbowyork.co.uk](http://www.overtherainbowyork.co.uk)

February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

## Fee changes with effect from 1 April 2024

I am writing to inform you of fee increases that will take effect from 1 April 2024. The Trustees of Over the Rainbow have conducted a detailed review of finances and an increase in fee rates is unavoidable for the financial year 2024/25 to sustain the setting.

The National Living Wage is increasing this year by 12%, and although the government have provided a small increase to the hourly rate of funding for children who are eligible for Early Years funding, our costs are increasing at a higher rate. The gap between the funding received and the true cost of delivering high quality early years and wraparound provision, continues to widen with the increases in salaries, utilities, food, activities, resources, and other consumables.

We appreciate that any change in fees has a significant impact on family finances and we have therefore done everything we can to keep fees as low as possible. Last year we did not increase fees, but this year the small increase was unavoidable to remain sustainable. We will strive to fundraise throughout this year to raise the further additional funds required. As Over the Rainbow is a charity, Trustees ensure that all surplus funds are reinvested into the setting in order to maintain and continually improve the quality of care provided and ensure the setting and its staff can continue to provide an environment in which all children can thrive.

With effect from 1 April 2024, the main rates that will apply are:

Breakfast Club (7.30am-9am)	£5.50
Pre-School Full Day (9am-3pm)	£32.50
Pre-School Half Day (9am-12.30pm or 11.30am-3pm)	£17.50
Additional charges for children with Early Years Funding (2, 3 & 4 year olds)	£2.25 per half day £4.00 per full day
After School Club (3pm-6pm)	£11.00
Holiday Club	£30.50

Over the last year we have invested in our outdoor provision. We have transformed our outdoor space with the addition of a new mud kitchen, sand pit, water wall and natural exploration area. We have new planters that are accessible for all the children, and we are very excited to grow our own fruit, vegetables and herbs this year. We have already seen the benefits for the children's learning opportunities and enjoyment in our outdoor area.



Over the next year we are intending to further improve our setting, and are looking at redecorating and refreshing inside the building. We have been setting up a new movement play area, building on our sensory and calm, quiet area, and looking at other ways we can continually enhance our provision throughout the year.

We would strongly encourage all our families eligible for Tax Free Childcare to sign up for the scheme. For every £8 you pay into an online account, the government will add an extra £2, up to £2000 per year per child ages 0-11. In effect, this means a 20% reduction in the amount you have to pay towards sessions. This can be used to pay for all of our sessions, including Pre-School, Breakfast & After School Club, and Holiday Club. For more information, including eligibility criteria and how to apply, as well as other government funding options, please visit the Childcare Choices website at [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk).

An Assisted Places scheme is available to support families subject to certain criteria. Although this is designed specifically for families on low incomes, please bear in mind that applications can be made to this fund when families suffer sudden financial changes that can lead to hardship. The current Assisted Place rate fee is available on application, and you are welcome to speak to the manager who will guide you through the process.

If you have any queries, you are always welcome to contact us, please call 01904 489053 or email [overtherainbow@overtherainbowyork.co.uk](mailto:overtherainbow@overtherainbowyork.co.uk)

Yours faithfully,

Harriet Robinson

Chair of Trustees