***Sessions September 2023 - onwards***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **DAY** | **TIMES** |
| MONDAY | 9am – 12 noon |
| 12.30pm – 3.30pm |
| TUESDAY | 9am – 12 noon |
| 12.30pm – 3.30pm |
| WEDNESDAY | 9am – 12 noon |
| 12.30pm – 3.30pm |
| THURSDAY | 9am – 12 noon |
| 12.30pm – 3.30pm |
| FRIDAY | 9am – 12 noon |
| 12.30pm – 3.30pm |
| Every Day | 8.15am - 9am | Early Start session (with or without breakfast) |
| 12 noon - 12.30pm | Lunch Club |

**The Sessions**

Stratton Playgroup runs in line with the Stratton Primary School term dates; these are on display on the notice board. We have a Late / Non-collection of children policy and procedure.

The sessions are planned to give a balanced structure of physical, quiet, free play and adult led activities, both indoor and out. Our carefully planned activities ensure that every child can progress with confidence through the 7 areas of learning within the Early Years Foundation Stage.

We plan for each child’s individual developmental needs & interests; and keep the curriculum aimed at their level of ability. Some of the activities your child will experience throughout all our sessions are: arts & crafts, a variety of role play, sensory play, messy play, cooking, gardening, singing and physical games.

We ask that all 2-year-olds attend a minimum of TWO 3 hour sessions per week; and the term after the child turns 3, that they attend a minimum of THREE 3 hours sessions per week.

This is to ensure that the child settles, and benefits as much as possible from their time with us.

Early Start

We offer an Early Start every morning.

The children will be offered a range of fruits, cereals, yogurts and toast (waffles, and pancakes may also be offered on occasions, we will take part in some voting with the children to see their preferences).

The early starts open from 8.15am and all children who are attending must be in the playgroup by 8.30am at the latest. The cost will be the same with or without breakfast, the cost of early starts can be covered by your funding - one early start will use ¾ hour of your funding.

We would appreciate it if these sessions can be booked in advance, but we do have some flexibility if you need to book in at the last minute.

Lunch Club

We offer a lunch club every day, from 12 noon to 12.30pm. Parents are required to provide a named nutritionally balanced packed lunch for their child, in an easy wipeable lunch box. At the lunch club all children sit down to eat together, with staff; followed by a quiet activity.

**Daily Sessions**

Many of the activities can be messy so we ask parents to dress their child appropriately! Children are encouraged to practice skills to help them gain independence, so clothing they can handle easily when going to the toilet is advised. We take the children outside as much as possible so ask parents to provide appropriate weather wear; coats, hats, etc.

We ask that all children have named wellies, which can be left at playgroup; and a change of clothes brought with them each session. We do not have enough pegs to allocate each child their own peg; therefore, we ask children to choose a peg each day. However, children do have individual drawers, where their work and newsletters are put. The children check these at the end of each session.

Children are welcome to bring a comforter, toy or object from home but we do request these items do not promote

violence in any way. Although staff do their best to ensure toys and objects are returned safely, they cannot be responsible for them. We do recommend that all toys / objects from home are clearly marked with the child’s name.

During the session we provide a snack where we offer a variety of different things. On special occasions and celebrations different foods may be offered. The weekly content of the snack is displayed in the playroom.

Parents receive monthly newsletters to keep them up to date of Playgroup events and activities.

To ensure Playgroup is a happy, healthy environment we have golden rules: Children are asked to be kind and gentle, use walking legs, use indoor voices, use listening ears, take turns & share with our friends, help each other, remember to say please & thank you, and to help tidy away.

**Fees & Funding** The fees are payable weekly, monthly or termly ***in advance***. Please note that fees must still be paid for absences, holidays or illness. Long term absences may be negotiated with the committee. Each child’s attendance is conditional upon fee payment. If your child is leaving before the end of a school year, Playgroup requires two weeks written notice.

**Our Fees for September 2024** are £22.50 per child per session; with the Early Start and Lunch Club at £3.75 per child each. Fees Can be paid by Cash, Cheque (made payable to Stratton Playgroup) or by your Bank’s Online Payment System – please ask a member of staff for our details. **A PRICE REVIEW WILL TAKE PLACE EACH YEAR, IN APRIL**..

There is a concessionary rate available for families with more than 1 fee paying (unfunded) child attending at one time, please ask a member of staff for details.

Some children may be entitled to 2-year-old “disadvantaged families” funding; applications need to be made via Cornwall Council’s Family Information Service, they will then approve up to 15 hours of funded childcare per week, if you or your child meet the criteria.

The term after your child turns 3 years old, they are entitled to Early Years Education Funding, which covers fees up to 15 hours per week for 38 weeks of every academic year. This must be taken over a minimum of 2 days in sessions no longer than 10 hours in any one day, and taken between a maximum of 2 childcare providers. Forms for this as well as entitlement dates are given out at the beginning of term and need to be completed quickly; staff are always on hand to help with any queries.

We ask that all 2-year-olds attend a minimum of TWO 3-hour sessions per week; and the term after the child turns 3, that they attend a minimum of THREE 3-hour sessions per week.

This is to ensure that the child settles, and benefits as much as possible from their time with us.

Some working parents of 3-year-olds are entitled to claim up to 30 hours funding per child, with the Extended Entitlement; certain criteria must be met, further details can be found at [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/)

At the same time, some parents can also apply for a Tax-Free Childcare account: <https://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator>

We may be able to claim up to an approx. £350 per year for Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) for some children that are claiming EYEF with us; this additional money could make a significant difference to your child’s learning outcomes. Any parent who thinks their child may be eligible, can have the appropriate details checked by Cornwall Council’s Early Years Finance Team, by simply informing us of your date of birth and national insurance number.

Under the flexible entitlement, parents with funded children can use the Early Start and Lunch Club as part of their funded hours and therefore not have to pay for them. But if you intend to use your full entitlement of funding on normal playgroup sessions, or your child is not government funded, the fee for the Early Start and/or Lunch Club will be payable.

**Note –** The government has confirmed that from **September 2024**, all eligible working parents of **9-month-olds to two-year-olds** will also be able to access funding for **15 hours per week** of education and care.

The government has confirmed that the new offers are for working families only and that the eligibility criteria will be the same as for the existing 30-hour for three- and four-year-olds.

This means that parents or carers will need to earn at least the equivalent of 16 hours at the minimum or living wage but no more than £100,000. This applies to each parent in dual-parent households, though there are exceptions where one parent is in receipt of Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, Carer’s Allowance, Limited Capability for Work Benefit or contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance and their partner is working.

If a parent becomes ineligible, there will be a “grace period”, in which we will continue to receive funding for a newly ineligible child until the end of the relevant funding period. If they are no longer eligible, a child can still access the 15 hours universal funding for all 3 & 4 years olds.