



The concept - parent-led affordable childcare

We are a group of local parents, who with support from a number of organisations, are setting up a parent led nursery for up to 26 children in a small and friendly setting.

We are aiming to provide a safe and stimulating environment where children can explore and learn through their interests, curiosity and competence, with a focus on the outdoor environment.

The children will be aged between 2 and 5 years old and will learn together in the same space.

The role we intend for parents to play

Parents will work with the nursery staff to inform how the nursery works and to support the day to day running. It will therefore be key for staff to facilitate parents to engage positively and be more involved than the average nursery. This will help keep costs down but also create lots of opportunities.

The roles parents will play include:

- form the board of directors who will have responsibility for providing governance for the nursery
- classroom helpers will support staff with the day to day running of the nursery
- parents with children attending the nursery will be expected to engage with and contribute to the nursery in a variety of ways, including having the opportunity to be involved in making significant decisions

Who is supporting the nursery and the role they are playing

- Coram Family Childcare is a national charity that is supporting the nursery to register as a charity, to recruit staff and register with Ofsted. They are also leading the financial modelling work, helping us to design affordable fees which are financially sustainable.
- NEF (the New Economics Foundation) has done the initial research on parent-led approaches nationally and internationally. They have helped to locate a venue and led activities to bring together local people. They will be developing a 'toolkit' of materials to support parents in other places to explore parent-led approaches in their own communities.
- Peabody Community Foundation are the landlords of the building, providing the nursery at very discounted rent. They have also provided access to a number of accredited training courses for parents and are supporting the nursery to make links

with the local authority. They are exploring opportunities for longer term mentoring and support for the nursery team.

- CO-DB are a design and build company who specialise in co-designing and building early years play equipment. They have grant funding to fit out the nursery and have already built (with parents) the outdoor climbing equipment and the mud kitchen. They are still to build an outdoor shelter which will be built in the coming weeks and the internal play stations, which will be developed in workshops with the nursery staff team (when they are in place) and parents and children.

Our progress with Ofsted

We have begun the Ofsted registration process and have a registration visit booked for 21st November. Lucie Stephens is the trustee that is the nominated person for the nursery.

The Financial model

We have a detailed financial model that takes in to account a range of factors, including numbers and ages of children, those utilising the free hours entitlement, ensuring we have affordable fees, paying all staff at least the London living wage and discounted overheads such as reduced rent and discounted business rates. If the nursery start to generate a profit after the initial set up phase – estimated to be within 18 months depending on the speed of opening up.

Timeframe

We plan to recruit the manager and deputy before Christmas, to open in January with around 8 children, and recruit further staff as the number of children in the setting increases. We want to gradually build up numbers to a maximum of 26 places. We currently have 32 completed expressions of interest for places at the nursery although we have not yet started to take formal applications.