



£280,000

Income we must raise ourselves

Guaranteed income

Nursery
Childcare
Vouchers

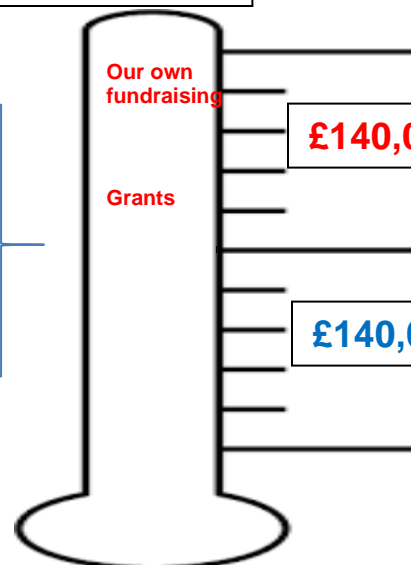
Nursery &
Afterschool
Club Fees

Our own
fundraising

£140,000

Grants

£140,000



Term Dates. Spring Term 2020

Start of term – Tuesday 7th January

Last day of 1st half term – Friday 14th February.

Half term holidays – Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February

Start of 2nd half term – Monday 24th February

Last day of Spring term – Friday 3rd April

Easter Holidays – Monday 6th April – Friday 17th April

Start of Summer term – Monday 20th April

Stepping Stones is a charity. Our income is the result of obtaining nursery voucher income and a contribution towards a key person for SEN children.

The rest, as you can see from the thermometer above has to come from our own fundraising. We need to raise £130,000 every year. We do this by applying for grants and from our own fundraising events.

To enable us to give our service we need your support by attending our fundraising events and we are happy to support you too if you would like to raise funds by arranging an event for us. It is a challenging time for all charities, so we all need the support of our families.

NURSERY TOPICS

This half term we are looking at:

Colour Monster – all about feelings and emotions
Chinese New Year – 2020 is the year of the Rat
Pets and Animals
People Who Help Us

EARLY COLLECTION OF CHILDREN

Could we ask parent and carers who have asked to collect their child earlier than 2.45 to ring the buzzer and wait outside the front door, staff will bring them out to you. Having adults come into the nursery before home time can disrupt the nursery routine and cause children to get upset as they may start to look for their own families. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Please make sure you have phoned or told staff in advance of early collection so they can ensure toilet runs are done and work/nursery correspondence is ready.

SICKNESS/ILLNESS POLICY

Please could parents' **telephone before 9.30am** if their child is unable to come in due to sickness etc as this really helps us with arranging staffing. Our telephone No: **01206 860467**, please try NOT to leave messages on Facebook as we don't always get to these until much later. If your child experiences any form of sickness or diarrhoea it is essential, you keep them at **home for a full 48 hours after the last episode** to prevent infections spreading to other children and families. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

SEVERE WEATHER INFORMATION

In the event of severe weather, our premises come under the guidance of Essex County Council. ECC will only close the Wilson Marriage Centre for safety reasons. Usually this is because of ice on the slopes leading to the car parks. **If the centre is closed; we also will be closed.**

Essex County Council -
www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Dates/Pages/Emergency-School-Closures

Heart – 96.1FM
www.heart.co.uk/colchester

Dream100 – 100.2FM
www.dream100.com

OTHER WAYS TO DONATE

100 Club – ask for details on how to join, a monthly donation of just 1 is all you need.

Essex Lottery – www.essexlottery.co.uk and search for Stepping Stones Play and Learn Group

Ebay – www.Ebay.co.uk when you buy or sell something, you can indicate a local charity gets a percentage of the sale/fee.

Just Giving – www.justgiving.com JustGiving's online fundraising pages make it simple for anyone to raise money for a cause that they care about.

Easy Fundraising – www.easyfundraising.org.uk Shop at over 3,500 shops and sites. Raising free donations when you shop online couldn't be easier!

Yellow Door – www.yellowdoor.net A great supplier of early years resources.

Links for our Social media are:

www.facebook.com/stepping_stones_play_and_learn_group_-_page

Twitter is: **@step_stones1**

Instagram is: **stepping_stones_play**

SATURDAY STAY AND PLAY

Dates for our Stay and Play sessions for children with additional needs and their families will be held on the following dates between **10.00am and 12.00noon**. This is a lovely opportunity to meet other parents and enjoy some family time together in a safe and secure environment. Refreshments are available for a donation. **Please contact us the day before to confirm these sessions are still going ahead.**

Saturday 8th February

Saturday 29th February

Saturday 21st March

Saturday 25th April

CAR PARKING SPACES

Please could **ALL PARENTS** be aware that the two spaces next to the nursery entrance are for families with children who have **PHYSICAL NEEDS ONLY**, this is because they often have lots of equipment to bring in too.

Families of children with other additional needs should park on the opposite side of the upper car park if possible. If there are no spaces available, please park in the lower car park and walk your child to the entrance. Please try to help us by not parking in these spaces and keeping them free for our families who need them. Thank you for your help and cooperation

ANTIBAC HAND WASH

Please could all parents and visitors coming into the setting please use the antibac machine by the front window. We would very much appreciate your help and support as we have many vulnerable children who may be very poorly as a result of infections and bugs being brought into our setting. We know no one would knowingly do this but wanted to ask for everyone's help in making sure we do our best to keep these sickness bugs at bay for all children.

NURSERY FUND PAYMENTS

As a registered charity and no-profit making group we ask for your help in providing support which allows us to give the children a morning and afternoon snack, trips out, events and craft materials. This payment of £30 per school year can be paid either in one lump sum or 3 termly payments of £10. Letters will be coming home soon with your child if you have yet to make any payments. We appreciate your help and support with payments as we are a charity.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

VALENTINE FAMILY DISCO



Friday 14th February



Hots dogs, glow sticks, tattoos, craft activities etc and refreshments will be on sale.

4.00 – 6.00pm

FREE ENTRANCE

SUMMER BALL

Our annual Summer Ball will take place on **SATURDAY 27th JUNE** at **Wivenhoe House Hotel**. Guests attending this black-tie event will enjoy a superb three course meal and dancing to a local band called Ticket2Ride.

Tickets are priced at just **£45 per person** which can be paid over a period of time using our SAVINGS CLUB. This adult-only event is now in its 17th year and is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to enjoy a lovely meal and help our charity raise important funds through tickets and a raffle to which local companies donate amazing prizes.

Contact Liz for more information regarding tickets and accommodation at the hotel if you fancy staying overnight and treating yourself. If you start saving now by putting away just £2.50 per person per week, your tickets will be paid for by the end of May when ticket sales close. Last day for tickets is Wednesday 27th May 2020. Any queries, please let us know.