

## **V22 Workspace Crèche – You Work, they Play.**

V22's first Workspace Crèche opened in September 2017. Our aim is to provide a space for artists, freelancers and entrepreneurs, who are also parents, to work alongside a crèche facility for their children. The enterprise is run by V22 Foundation - a not-for-profit organisation - and, if successful, we want to make such an offer an integral part of V22's studio and workspace buildings across the city.

Our business plan is based on the most affordable model we could come up with. We have tried to build flexibility into it without escalating administration costs, and hope we may grow to be more flexible as we settle into our daily rhythms.

What we are creating, in partnership with our parents and carers, is an ethos of co-caring for our children in an environment built on a child-centered approach to daily routines which celebrates the importance of play.

We believe, like Albert Einstein, that *play is the highest form of research*, and we take seriously our commitment to a child-led approach, not only to play, but also to the changing design of the crèche space, the choice of books for our library, and even visits to the local market to choose fruit and vegetables for snack time.

We have included here some often-asked questions and their answers which we hope will help you to understand more about how we operate, and decide if you would like to join us.

### **Who will be looking after my child?**

Our crèche manager is Thomas Quinn, he has been working in early years since he was 18. For the past 10 years he has been working in an Ofsted 'Outstanding' Children's Centre in Hackney. He will be instrumental in developing our first Workspace Crèche, creating a caring and stimulating environment, and supporting the development of our children.

Our crèche Deputy Manager is Hanako Keller, she is a qualified Primary School teacher with over 12 years teaching and management experience in Early Years. She believes it is important that children's needs are met in partnership with parents and carers and that this plays an important role in children's learning, confidence building and self-esteem.

### **Where is the crèche?**

The crèche is in a lovely large space on the ground floor of our Dalston building on Ashwin Street, E8. Next door to the crèche is the desk space area, which has 13 desks and 1 private office. Upstairs are a variety of artists' studios which will be prioritized for parents as they become available.

**How does the deskpace work?**

We offer a Contract Fixed Desk or a Pay-as-you-Go option. For both you get a key to the building and an induction of how it works.

**Contract - Fixed desk**

Rolling licence

Works out cheaper if using crèche for 3 or more sessions per week

Pay monthly in advance

£100 deposit

£400 per month (£200 for desk; £200 for 2 sessions per week)

£20 per session thereafter

Ensured 24/7 access outside of booked crèche sessions (to workspace only) at your fixed desk

Storage and personalisation of desk on agreement

Super-fast broadband

Two people can share one desk, not at the same time, and share crèche sessions.

Anyone looking for a sharer please go to our private Facebook Group: [V22 Workspace Crèche Sharers](#).

**Flexible – pay as you go**

Book sessions via [Eventbrite](#)

Pay through ticket system

£75 key deposit

£50 admin fee – one off covers building induction etc.

£30 per session (this includes admin fees for ticketing system)

Super-fast broadband

We ask that you book at least 2 sessions per week.

24/7 access outside of booked sessions (to workspace only) on a first come first served basis

**Can I rent a desk without using the crèche?**

Only as a sharer of a parent/carer that you know. Each desk tenant is allowed one named sharer and this can be someone who does not use the crèche.

**Can I use the crèche without renting a desk?**

Only if you are a tenant of the building, i.e. if you have a studio upstairs.

**How does the waiting list for studios work?**

Studios here are very desirable so do not often become available. When they do, existing tenants who want to use the crèche are prioritised. If you were a deskpace tenant already using the crèche you would have first option on a studio.

**When is the crèche open?**

Crèche sessions run Monday to Friday during holidays and term times. Other than any possible closure we may have to effect due to emergencies, we only shut for two weeks over Christmas and New Year.

Our morning session runs from 9:00 - 12:00 and our afternoon session from 13:30 - 16:30.

You can come for part of a session but the full session fee will still be payable.

**How do I book in crèche sessions?****Fixed desks sessions are allocated first:**

- Sessions are booked on a month-by-month basis.
- We ask you to fill in a booking-in form for a typical month - this then provides us with your timetable.
- Your standard timetable can be changed, but we require notification 5 working days before the month in which the changes will take effect.

**Pay-as-you-Go sessions:**

These are booked through Eventbrite [here](#).

**What if I need extra sessions?**

If they are fully booked on Eventbrite, let us know as soon as possible and we will try to accommodate you.

**Is there a minimum and maximum number of sessions I can book?**

We ask that you book a minimum of 2 sessions per week so that the children can settle, get to know each other and benefit from the activities we offer.

We are currently registering with Ofsted, until this is complete we can only provide sole care to your children for up to 4 hours per day.

**How do I pay?**

You pay for the desk space monthly in advance by standing order on the first of every month.

For the crèche sessions you also pay a month in advance according to your timetable or booking-in form.

Or you pay-as-you-Go through Eventbrite.

**How much notice do I need to give if I want to leave?**

One month to be given at the beginning of the month.

**What if my child is ill?**

Please read our sickness policy on when and when not to bring your child into crèche if they are ill. We want to keep all our children healthy, and things like a temperature or diarrhoea mean your child will need to stay at home.

We cannot refund your fee if your child is ill; please understand we would have already booked the staff required for that day, and our costs will still be the same.

**What if I want to see my child during the day?**

Our entire set-up is designed so that we can remain hands-on parents whilst still getting some concentrated work done.

However, we ask that you not pop into the crèche on a whim because this can be disruptive for all the children, and may prevent your child from settling in easily.

Your child may get upset and miss you during the settling in period - this can last for up to 6 weeks generally.

If your child gets distressed and cannot be soothed we will always call you without delay.

Equally, if your child celebrates a major milestone - first steps, first words, an excellent achievement of some kind - we will also call you without delay, so that you do not miss out on these special moments.

**What activities are included?**

- a library session with a librarian on Monday mornings at Dalston library. The children choose the selection of books they bring back to refresh our crèche library for story time.
- daily visits and regular access to workshops and playtime in the lovely Dalston Eastern Curve Garden
- a monthly rotating artwork which is discussed and used as inspiration for art classes, story time and conversation periods
- weekly rotation of toys and play activities

We would also like to start messy play/music/language sessions/(put your idea here), but want to choose these additional activities in collaboration with our children and their parents or carers.

**How can I get more involved in the crèche?**

Parents have already offered to hold workshops for the children on their specialisms or hobbies. So far these include growing plants, looking at art, and painting. We would love more parents to get involved in this way to offer our children a wide selection of activities and forms of enrichment.

We also encourage parents to get involved through working at the crèche. We offer a work one session (with your child free of charge), and get another session completely free. We love the co-operative model of childcare and believe it adds to the culture of co-caring which our crèche is trying to provide.