

PARENT NEWSLETTER

September 2018



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"excellent child care...at home"

Welcome

Welcome to our August newsletter and to all the new families that have joined our service.

Unfortunately we weren't able to get our July newsletter out as intended. We had all hands on deck to ensure the transition to the new Child Care Subsidy went as smoothly as possible. As with any transition to a new system there have been a few hiccups along the way and we are still trying to work through them. We have really appreciated the patience both educators and families have shown during this time. Hopefully everything will be back to normal as soon as possible. If you have any concerns about what is happening now with regards to your Child Care Subsidy payments, please visit the Department of Education and Training website www.humanservices.gov.au/childcaresubsidy for more information.

We are also very excited to announce that we have been chosen as a National Finalist in the 2018 Family Day Care Australia Service of the Year Award. This is a fantastic recognition for our service and Thankyou to all parents who nominated us for this award. We also would like to congratulate two of our educators, Amy Fairman and Caroline Bolt, who were each announced as the 2018 Family Day Care Regional Educator of the Year in their respective regions. This award really highlights the hard work and excellent education and care that Bright Futures is delivering to its children and parents.

Warm Regards Andrea



Regards Andrea

Service Manager

Your Child Care Subsidy Statement

Soon you will received your latest Parent Statement. For those families new to our service, we are legally required to issue these statements to you every 2 weeks. These statements show the amounts of Child Care Subsidy that has been paid directly to your educator for care provided to your child/ren during the period on the statement, as well as the amounts you are responsible for paying to your educator.

**This is not an invoice!
Only a statement.**

Please read through this statement carefully and address any concerns you have about your entitlements with either your educator, a Coordination Unit staff member or Centrelink.

New Service Policies

Did you know that we have new service policies that came into effect at the beginning of July this year?

Over the past 6 months staff and educators have been working hard on reviewing our policies and procedures and creating new ones where needed. Your educator should have an electronic copy of this document. It was also emailed to all parents registered with our service.

If you haven't received a copy please update your email address with us. You can also read them [here](#).

We welcome any feedback you may have. Please feel free to contact our office if you have any concerns about these policies.

News from Playgroup

All Weather Outdoor Play

What a wet winter we've had this year! It has kept many of us indoors, but do we need to be? If we are prepared with gum boots, rain coats and a change of clothes we can open the doors and enjoy playing in nature and experience the richness of the winter season.

Nature Play SA sells these fantastic onesies. We are encouraging our educators to purchase some of these and bring them to playgroup along with gum boots and spare clothing so the children can keep playing outside, even if it's raining a little.

If you have any spare gum boots or children's clothing, please donate them to Playgroup for those odd occasions where educators may forget.

Below are some links you may find interesting to support outdoor nature play.

<https://www.learningpotential.gov.au/the-benefits-of-outdoor-play>

<https://www.natureplaywa.org.au/>

<http://forestschoools.com/what-happens-at-a-forest-school/>

<https://natureplaysa.org.au/shop-with-us/shop/>



Our New Website is Coming Soon

Development of our new website is coming along fantastically. The team at Stormbox are working hard on the design and will be getting ready for launch soon.

A couple of exciting features on the new site will be an online playgroup booking system for our educators and we will be introducing blogs that will be written by our professional staff. Blogs are a great way of sharing interesting and relevant information about the family day care and early education and care industries.

Watch this space!



Changes to Law: Educators Providing Relative Care

Last year the Federal Government brought in a new ruling for the family day care industry where educators who placed their own children into care could not claim their Child Care Rebate (now Child Care Subsidy) entitlements if their own child was in an approved child care service on a day they were providing education and care to other children.

In conjunction with this, the Federal Government has recently introduced new legislation that restricts educators providing education and care to a relative, such as a sibling, grandchild, niece or nephew.

This has meant that, if an educator is providing relative care for more than 50% of the total number of hours they work in a week, Child Care Subsidy cannot be claimed and the parent is responsible for paying the full cost of care. Educators are now also restricted in the number of children they can have in care if more than 50% of the children attending their service are a relative.

If your educator is a relative this will affect you. We understand that this can be a frustrating issue for all involved, however we must comply with this new legislation or risk receiving a breach and possible fine.

For more information please visit www.education.gov.au or contact our service and we would be more than happy to explain it further.

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