

Service Newsletter January/February 2024

As we step into the warm embrace of January and February, months brimming with the promise of new beginnings and fresh starts, we find ourselves in the first Summer (season of the young). Brace yourself because the warm weather is really going to be taking hold now. It's time to shake off the holiday reverie and ease back into the comforting rhythm of our routines! Welcome back to a year filled with renewed inspiration and educational discoveries!

Our Admin Team is Complete

We are very excited to welcome Sue Coles to the Admin Team! Sue has extensive administrative experience and has already shown us how efficient and organized she is in the short time that she has been with us. She looks forward to working with all the Nature Alliance families!

Assessment and Rating

We are excited to inform you that Nature Alliance will be undergoing Assessment and Rating in the upcoming week. This process involves a comprehensive evaluation process conducted by ECRU to ensure that our Service meets the rigorous standards of safety, quality and care. This assessment serves as a testament to our commitment to providing the highest level of care and educational excellence to your children. We are dedicated to transparency and accountability throughout this process and look forward to sharing the results with you in the upcoming weeks. We know that the Educators who have been selected are excited and nervous, but we are very proud that the assessors will be able to witness the great work they do firsthand. So if you do see some unfamiliar faces at your Educator's home next week, please don't hesitate to say hi and tell them how amazing your Educator is!

Updating Family and Child Details Information

At the beginning of March, we will be emailing all families and including a Change of Details Form. We are required to keep our records up to date, so if there have been any changes to your details or any changes to your child's health requirements please complete this form and return to the Nature Alliance Office info@naturealliancefdc.com.au

Enrolment Fee & Holding Fee

The enrolment levy of \$25 must be paid upon enrolment of your child into care. If your child is casual or only attends on school holidays and the enrolment lapses during the current calendar year, then you will not be charged another enrolment fee if care recommences. This fee will only be charged once a calendar year. The Holding Fee which is the equivalent of two weeks Gap Fee is required to be paid before your child commences care as the redPay system invoices parents in arrears. We do endeavour to allow time for your CCS to be approved before issuing the invoice, so please be aware that on occasions, this invoice may arrive just as your child is about to start care. This Fee is refunded when care is ceased, once all accounts are settled.

Child Care Subsidy Balancing

Services Australia is balancing Child Care Subsidy (CCS) for the 2022-23 financial year. You must confirm your income so Services Australia can balance your CCS. You can confirm your income by:

- Lodging your tax return with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), or
- Telling Services Australia you don't need to lodge a tax return online, even if you've already told the ATO

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If you don't confirm your income, your CCS will stop. It will reduce to 0% from 8th July 2024. Find out more about [CCS balancing](#) on the Services Australia website.

Immunisation Requirements

To be eligible for the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) a child must also meet immunization requirements. To meet the CCS immunization requirements, children must be immunized according to the standard vaccination schedule, be on an eligible catch-up vaccination schedule or have an approved exemption from being immunised. There is a short immunization grace period which provides some flexibility for families to meet the vaccination requirements where they may have missed or forgotten a scheduled vaccination. If you don't meet the requirements your subsidy will stop and you'll need to submit a new claim for CCS. The claim can only be approved once your child's immunization status is up to date with the AIR. See [Services Australia website](#) for more information.

Updated Policies

The following policies have been updated and uploaded to the website:

- [Policy 29](#) – Educator Leave Policy
- [Policy 1.4](#) – Sleep & Rest Policy
- [Policy 31](#) – Exemption for Additional Children

Updating redPAY Bank Details

If you need to update your bank details, please note that the invoices are automatically generated on Tuesday morning and once in the system these cannot be changed. Payments are processed from credit cards each Thursday and bank accounts on Friday (subject to Public Holidays). If you need to update or change your bank details for the payment of your fees, please let us know as soon as possible via email to info@natureallinacefdc.com.au and our admin team can send a new redPAY link to be updated.

Update to the Nature Alliance Terms of Trade and Fee Policy

We have updated our service [Terms of Trade](#) and [Fee Policy](#) to reflect the changes that we needed to make with regard to the nonpayment of Fees and Debt Collection. The changes were recommended by the service legal representative and now clearly outline the processes we will follow in the situation of non-payment of parent fees and the collection of bad debts.

Parent Authorisations for Risk Assessments

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone for working with your Educator to sign authorizations for your children to participate in outings, incursions, emergency drills, etc. We were directed by the Education and Care Regulatory Unit (ECRU) to make some changes to our template, which means that all families have to re-sign this document. It is important that you read your Educator's risk assessments before signing the authorization as there is valuable information on them pertaining to the outing or activity your child will be involved in. As always, we encourage feedback from our families, so please feel free to make any suggestions to your Educator and she will share it with us.

Screen Time and your Children

It's really important to keep track of how much time your little ones spend in front of screens. Too much screen time can affect their growing brains and make it tougher for them to learn things like talking and playing with others. Plus, it can disturb their sleep and keep them from running around and having fun. Some studies even suggest it might lead to attention issues and slow down their language skills later on. For more information and guidance on how to use technology with your children have a read of this great [article](#) on the Raising Children Parenting Website.

Contact Us

If you have any queries or feedback regarding the Service or would like to chat about the content of this newsletter, or about your child's care in general, please feel free to [contact us](#) through our website or find us on [Facebook](#).

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