

## Service Newsletter September 2023

As the season of Djilba progresses and the temperatures continue to rise, we'll start to see the flower stalks of the balgas emerging in preparation for the coming Kambarang season. September is noted as a transitional time with still cooler weather interspersed with warmer days. Traditionally at this time of year, food sources continued to be grazing animals such as kangaroo and emu, but possum was also hunted. Traditional water sources were replenished and family groups often hunted together. During this season the wattle comes into full bloom, along with lemon myrtle, and this signals the start of the mass blooming in the south-west in particular.

## Signing your Child in and out of care

It is a legislative requirement that every parent / guardian signs their child into care every morning and out of care at the end of the day. If for some reason you have forgotten your pin, or have forgotten to sign your child in/out, then your Educator may use her own pin to do this. This will give us an indication as to who is in care at any given moment. It is essential that you do not share your pin with anyone, including your Educator, as this is your unique signifier number. If you have forgotten your pin or feel that it may have been compromised, then please contact the office and we will issue you with another one.

## Parent Gap Payments

It has been a smoother transition into the new Central Payments System than we expected and with minimal declined transactions after processing timesheets each week, so thank you all. We do need to remind you all though that if any payments do decline, you will be contacted immediately by the service and if we do not get a response from you we may end date your child's booking until you have communicated how and when you will have the funds available. Your Educator will be copied into the communication so they know if we have instructed them not to allow children into care if payments are outstanding. Care will not be reinstated for any outstanding balances until they are cleared.

## Updated Policies

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

- [Policy 7 – Confidentiality, Privacy & Educator Record Management](#)
- [Policy 8 – Grievance & Complaints Policy](#)
- [Policy 22 – Fit & Proper Persons Policy](#)
- [Policy 25 – Keeping a Register of Family Day Care Service Staff, Educators, Educator Assistants, Students, Volunteers & Regular Visitors](#)
- [Policy 33 – Fraud Prevention](#)
- [Policy 35 – Child Care Subsidy \(CCS\) Governance](#)

## Resources to Empower Children & Help Keep them Safe

[Child Safe](#) has developed a program for Educators and parents that will show you how to teach and empower your children with important and practical safety practices that will protect them from harm and abuse. Body safety programs are essential for young children and this website gives parents tips on how to teach this important topic in an age-appropriate and non-threatening way.



**WHERE CHILDREN CAN BE CHILDREN**



## **Excursions & Risk Assessments**

The beauty of Family Day Care, and having small groups of children in care, is that your Educator is able to take children out in order to connect with country and community. Excursions are not something that they take lightly, and you will find that your Educator will regularly be asking you to sign authorisations to take your children out on an adventure. It is essential that you read the risk assessments that have been created for each excursion prior to signing the authorisation form. We can assure you that it is not a process that is taken lightly. For more information about Excursions and Risk Assessments feel free to have a read of our [Excursions and Regular Outings Policy](#).

## **Resources & Useful Information for Families**

Did you know that the Nature Alliance Website has [research, articles and links to other useful websites](#) that can support and guide you through the journey of raising children? Check in regularly as this information is updated often.

## **Parent Survey**

Research shows children are much more likely to reach their full potential in life when their family and education and care service work together. These benefits are evident when families and Educators exchange information regularly and collaborate on consistent approaches to daily routines, child development and learning. Nature Alliance Educator Support Officers regularly collaborate with your Educator so that we can also support them in educating your children. While we gather information from our Educators it is also important that we gather information from families too. It would be greatly appreciated if you could take the time to complete [this survey](#) so that we can see what practices we can further develop or enhance.

## **Unwell Children in Care**

Winter brings many challenges and one of those is unwell children. Whilst having an unwell child and needing to attend your workplace creates another layer of stress it is vital that unwell children remain at home to rest and recuperate. As you can understand, young children play very closely together and love to exchange bugs, this can then be passed on to other families and most definitely your Educators. If your Educator becomes unwell care would be cancelled for everyone. And we never know what is happening in another family's life – pregnancy, someone receiving life-saving treatment, immune compromised health, reasons for those family members to keep as well as possible. Covid, taught us how resilient and resolute we can be in respecting each other and maintaining healthy habits. So please keep your unwell child at home so that your Educator doesn't need you to come and collect them.

Also please remember if your child is requiring to be medicated before arriving into care for coughs and colds, they ideally need to be at home. Once the medication wears off, they become unwell and upset which will result in you being asked to collect them.

Your co-operation with this is appreciated and hopefully the bugs will disappear with the arrival of warmer weather.

## **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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