

Service Newsletter April 2024

Welcome to the April edition of our Parent newsletter! As we embrace the changing seasons, we are reminded of the profound connections between nature, culture, and education. Drawing inspiration from the wisdom of Indigenous knowledge systems, we encourage you to explore how the essence of Djeran (Nyoongar), Marrul (Yawuru), Warnka-mageny (Miriwoong) and Kupilya ngarrin (Ngadju) can inform and enrich early childhood play experiences that foster a deeper connection to the natural world and promote holistic learning. The best way to do this is to make the best of the cooler weather and get outdoors with your children!

Career in Family Day Care

Are you passionate about early childhood education and seeking a rewarding career path? Consider becoming a Family Day Care educator! Join our dynamic team and embark on a fulfilling journey where you'll have the opportunity to make a positive impact on young minds in a nurturing home environment. As a Family Day Care educator, you'll have the flexibility to create tailored learning experiences, build strong relationships with children and their families, and contribute to their growth and development during these crucial formative years. With the support of our dedicated team and access to resources and training, you'll play a vital role in shaping the future generation. If you're an early childhood trained individual looking for a fulfilling career that offers flexibility and personal growth, we invite you to join us in making a difference every day. Apply now to start your journey with us!

Policies Being Updated

The following Policies are in the process of being updated. This is your opportunity to have your say and suggest any changes or updates. Please forward any feedback to Info and it will be discussed during our staff meeting.

- Policy 1.5 – [Tobacco, Drug and Alcohol-Free Environment](#)
- Policy 5.1 – [Delivery and Collection of children](#)
- Policy 5.2 – [Excursions and Regular Outings](#)
- Policy 15 – [Absences from Care](#)
- Policy 31 – [Exemption for Additional Children](#)

Updated Policies

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

- Policy 1.6 – [Child Protection](#)
- Policy 1.7 – [Child Safe Environment](#)
- Policy 5.3 – [Transporting Children](#)
- Policy 12 – [Acceptance and Refusal of Authorisation](#)
- Policy 13 – [Positive Behaviour Guidance](#)
- Policy 20 – [Registration of FDC Educators](#)
- Policy 28 – [Employment of FDC Service Staff](#)
- Policy 29 – [Educator Leave](#)
- Policy 34 – [Fee Policy](#)

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- Policy 36 – [Environmental Responsibility Policy](#)

Assessment and Rating Update

Our Assessment and Rating has still not been finalized. The visits from the Assessors were wonderful, they spoke highly of the Educators they visited and also about our processes. A draft report was sent to the service and a response was submitted to ECRU last month. We will endeavour to update you as soon as our rating is finalised. All we can say is that we are extremely proud of our Educators and our practices and are very grateful to those Educators who opened up their doors to welcome the Assessors.

Photographing your Children in Care

Our Educators prioritize the safety and privacy of all children in their care. To maintain a secure environment and respect the confidentiality of each child, we ask that parents / guardians refrain from taking photos within the daycare premises. This ensures that all children feel comfortable and protected, and it also aligns with our commitment to uphold professional standards and regulatory guidelines. We understand the desire to capture precious moments, but safeguarding the privacy and well-being of every child remains our utmost priority. If you have any concerns or questions about this please don't hesitate to reach out to your Educator.

ANZAC Public Holiday

Please be advised that the Nature Alliance Family Day Care office will be closed on Thursday 25th April. Normal office hours will resume from Friday 26th April. Please note the payment processes will also be affected by the public holiday creating a 1 day delay in your usual payment collection from redPAY. Please refer to your Educator's Parent/Guardian Handbook in regard to public holiday absences and fees.

How Does The Child Care Subsidy (CCS) Work?

CCS is calculated using your MyGov percentage and the fortnightly hours you are eligible for. However, it is also only paid on the capped amount of \$12.72 per hour. Any amount above this is not eligible for CCS. You are also only eligible for CCS on the number of hours fortnightly that your MyGov advises. Any amount above this is also not eligible for CCS. Additionally, Centrelink also withhold 5% of your subsidy amount for tax balancing purposes. You can find more information about the child care subsidy at the following [website](#).

Are you Eligible for More Hours of Subsidized Care?

Changes made to the CCS activity test have seen more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families get access to early learning.

The Australian Government increased the CCS base hours to 36 hours of subsidised care each fortnight for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Many families are already benefiting from this change, although some are missing out.

The changes mean that more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children:

- can get early childhood education and care
- are ready for big school.

We continue to base a family's CCS rate on their income. This means that some families may get more than 36 hours of CCS per fortnight. This won't change.

Families can find out more on the [Services Australia](#) website.

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Families facing tough times may get more child care support

If you are facing difficult or challenging circumstances, you can sometimes get free child care. This is called Additional Child Care Subsidy, or ACCS. It usually covers all child care fees.

There are 4 types of ACCS:

Child wellbeing -The child wellbeing subsidy is for families who need practical help to support their child's safety and wellbeing. Your child care service applies for this on behalf of families. Families cannot apply.

Grandparent -_The grandparent subsidy is for grandparents on income support who are the primary carer of their grandchild.

Temporary financial hardship -_The temporary financial hardship subsidy is for families experiencing temporary, significant financial stress.

Transition to work - The transition to work subsidy is for parents or carers transitioning to work from income support.

Except for ACCS child wellbeing, you apply on the [Services Australia website](#) or through your myGov account.

2024 Early childhood Education and Care National Workforce Census

The NWC is a unique data collection that provides an overview of the early childhood education and care workforce. The information we provide is important to help inform and develop government policies and programs. Information collected includes the type of services provided, numbers of children in care and peoples employed by the service. No identifiable information is included. If you would like to know more about the census you can find it [here](#). You may also like to read the [privacy notice](#).

Primitive Reflexes

Have you ever noticed your baby's natural movements? They're known as primitive reflexes, and they play a key role in early development. We are grateful to have received valuable insights from a physiotherapist. These reflexes, controlled by the brainstem, are important indicators of your child's nervous system health. Doctors and therapists often use them to track development. Understanding [Primitive reflexes](#) can give you valuable insights into your child's growth. We wanted to share this information with you because we believe it can help you support your child's journey towards healthy development.

Pinning your children in and out of care

Recently we've noticed a concerning rise in instances where children aren't properly signed in and out of care either by the person dropping them off or are being signed in by Educators using their PIN the following week for timesheet processing. Based on these observations, Nature Alliance reached out to Family Day Care Australia, the Educators' insurer, to inquire about liability in cases where a child wasn't correctly signed into care and subsequently injured. Here's the response we received: "Regarding public liability insurance, it's crucial to clarify that a child is covered under FDCA's policy only when officially signed into the Educator's care. This means that the Educator is responsible for the child's safety during any incidents. However, if a child isn't registered with the Educator and an incident occurs, it's considered a private care arrangement (and potentially not approved by the service). In such cases, there's no coverage for children not officially under the Educator's care." It's imperative that children are correctly signed into care as it's both a regulatory and public liability requirement. Please ensure you complete the sign-in process when dropping off your child and feel free to discuss any questions with your Educator. If you are in a rush and the Educator asks you for your pin, please do not give it to her. Every Educator has her own pin and is able to sign your child in in the event that you are not able to. This should only be done in limited situations.

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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). redPAY operates independently from Nature Alliance so 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@naturealliancefdc.com.au and our admin team can send a new redPAY link to be updated. It is important to note that if your account details change, the old account must remain open until your next payment is reflected on the new account, this will minimise the chance of a Dishonor Fee being charged.

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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