

Service Newsletter March 2022

As we work our way through Autumn it's important to take time to acknowledge what is going on around you and on how you are feeling. Take some time to switch off your devices and get out into nature. Nature is the best pathway to inner peace....it recharges one's energy. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have an intimate connection to the land, waters and living things. Their values, identity, spirituality, and lifestyles have all been strongly influenced by the environment in which they live. Let's take the time to connect and find out how we can follow in their footsteps.

Authorisations for Excursions

As part of many educator's programs, excursions to various locations in the neighborhood take place. The Educators are required by law to have conducted a Risk Assessment which is checked and signed off by Nature Alliance staff. This document must be in place before you as the parent or guardian are asked to sign the authorisation for excursion form. Please check that these documents are in place before you sign.

Nature Alliance is looking for more Educators

If you have a Certificate III in Children's Services and would like to run your own business from home, then Family Day Care with Nature Alliance may be the perfect opportunity for a change in career. Please visit our [website](#) or contact staff if you would like to chat about it.

Updated Policies for 2022

The following policies have been reviewed; these have been updated on the [Nature Alliance Website](#).

- 1.4 Sleep and Rest
- 1.6 Child Protection
- 1.7 Child Safety
- 3.3 First Aid
- 5.2 Excursions and Regular Outings
- 20 Registration of FDC Educators
- 26 Monitoring & Support of FDC Educators and Ed Assistants
- 29 Educator Leave
- 36 Environmental Sustainability (new policy)

The following policies will be reviewed, and you can access these via the Nature Alliance website - <https://www.naturealliancefdc.com.au/service-policies/>

Policy 28 -Employment of FDC Service Staff Policy

Policy 31 - Exemption for Additional Children

Policy 33 - Fraud Prevention

We value any feedback as the more input received from a wider range of people, the stronger our policies become.

WHERE CHILDREN CAN BE CHILDREN



Covid Update

COVID is well and truly here. We are receiving daily notifications of close contacts and confirmed cases and it has been keeping the staff and the Educators on their toes. Thank you to all the families who contact us with their enquiries and concerns, we are happy to look into the finer details to ensure that our Educators and your children are protected as much as possible. One of the biggest questions we are getting from families is regarding the Educator's COVID Management Plans and their requirements. As a Service, we sent out our COVID Management Plan to the Educators and families and advised our Educators to use this as a guide to create their own management plans if they felt it was necessary. A significant number of Educators have included requirements that go over and above the Government Guidelines. They have discussed the reasons with us and we support them in implementing their plans.

We do however stress that it is essential that these plans are communicated clearly with the families they work with, as some of the finer details can come as a surprise when COVID does impact on care. The decisions that the Educators have made have not been taken lightly and there has been a lot of discussion around the practices they are implementing. Please take the time to chat to your Educator to find out how she will be managing close contacts, RAT and PCR tests, closures and isolation requirements. We would also like to acknowledge that we are aware that the guidelines and recommendations are always changing, therefore we do expect that the Educator's practices will be adjusted accordingly.

If you are in doubt let your Educator know you would like to chat to her, and a suitable time can be arranged to talk about it. Alternatively, feel free to contact the office and we will gladly assist with any enquiries. We acknowledge that the impact of the COVID-19 virus has created many challenges for families so please remember to reach out should you need some support. The [Beyond Blue](#) website has some great information and strategies that could be of assistance.

CCS Balancing: 30 June deadline approaching

Families must confirm their income by 30 June 2022 **to avoid losing Child Care Subsidy (CCS) or incurring a debt.** At the end of each financial year, Services Australia reconciles family payments, including CCS. This is to ensure families receive the correct amount of assistance for the year. Families need to confirm their income after the end of the financial year for this to occur. 30 June 2022 marks two important deadlines for families:

- The first deadline for confirming 2022-21 income
- The second deadline for confirming 2019-22 income

Read about the consequences if families miss these deadlines on the [Services Australia website](#).

Enrolments for School Holidays

As school holidays are fast approaching, this is a good time to check with your Educator to ensure that all details on your child's enrolment are correct and that you have modified attendance days if needed. Also, if your child hasn't been in attendance for 14 weeks or more, then a new enrolment will need to be established as the Department of Human Services automatically cancels enrolments if that has been no activity during this time frame. Enrolments can be completed online now, so please check with your Educator and if necessary a link will be generated for you.

Contact Us

If you have any queries regarding the Service or any of the content of this newsletter, please feel free to contact us on the numbers or email address below or find us on our [Facebook](#) page.

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