

## Family Newsletter- February 2017

With the excitement and busy-ness of the Christmas holiday season over and the New Year well underway, Armidale & District Family Day Care Staff and Educators would like to take the opportunity to wish all enrolled families the very best for the year ahead.

We look forward to providing quality ,home-based care for your child or children throughout 2017.

Should you ever need to contact us directly please remember that our office is conveniently located at 95 Faulkner Street, Armidale. You are very welcome to drop in (or you can call us on 6772 5300) Monday to Thursday 8.30-4.30.

Please remember that your Educator is working from their own home and respect their need for timely pickups and delivery of your children. Educators are happy to discuss changes that need to occur with your contract.

Whilst Educators might be happy to meet members of your family, please understand that they are caring for other children and they need to have their full attention on the other children in care to ensure safety. Therefore they cannot welcome visitors for an extended stay

### **Clothing**

#### *A request from Educators:*

Please remember to pack enough clothing for your child's day in care. The current period of extreme hot weather and the need to keep children cool by offering water play means more spare clothes are required.

*AFDC is a Sunsafe service- please ensure children wear t-shirts or clothing with short sleeves as well as broad brimmed hats. Your Educator will apply sunscreen before children play outdoors.*



### **Food (nutrition)**

AFDC encourages families to provide children attending care with a water bottle and an adequate amount of nutritious food to meet their energy needs throughout the day. You may decide to provide items in bulk at the beginning of the week if you attend a few days each week. Your Educator could make some lunchbox suggestions based on their experience and for more ideas you could visit:

[www.raisingchildren.net.au/articles/packing\\_healthy\\_lunches.html](http://www.raisingchildren.net.au/articles/packing_healthy_lunches.html)



## **Payment of fees**

Your Educator would appreciate prompt payment for all services provided. Discuss with your Educator about a payment plan. All the Educators would happily accept this as then they know that the weekly payments are occurring.

Your Educator provides a service for you and they expect to be paid for the care they provide. Please remember that they need to get paid by you on a weekly basis.

*From our Parent Information booklet:*

*Fees are payable weekly unless an alternative arrangement has been made with your Educator. Payment for services received is mandatory. Failure to pay fees will result in the cancellation of care and could incur legal action for the recovery of outstanding debts.*

Please note: If you are experiencing financial hardship and you are eligible for Child Care Benefit you may also be entitled to receive Special Child Care Benefit. Please don't hesitate to contact our office for further information.

## **Contacting your Educator**

If your child is going to be absent or late please remember to contact your Educator to let them know. A quick call or text from you would be appreciated as it will let your Educator know whether they need to wait for your child before offering a play experience they have been planning or before they leave their service to go on a routine excursion.



## **Nominating Educator**

Know an exceptional early childhood professional?

**Then nominate them in the Australian Family Early Education & Care Awards and go into the draw to WIN a Springfree® Trampoline!**

The World's Safest Trampoline™ is now the world's first Smart Trampoline™.

The Safe Choice is now the Smart Choice!

Nominate now! [earlyeducationandcareawards.com.au](http://earlyeducationandcareawards.com.au)

## **The Early Years Learning Framework**

One vital fact that seems to get completely overlooked in media discussions about “child care” is the importance of early childhood education.

When we talk about early childhood education we aren't talking about the formal sort of learning that happens in a classroom situation, we are talking about play based learning and the learning that happens during daily routines and through social interactions.

As an early childhood professional, your Educator has been trained to observe children's play and interactions, to note their interests and their play needs and plan a program of activities and experiences (learning opportunities) around them.

*Your Educator would also welcome the opportunity to include your family's interests and your suggestions in their program e.g. sharing shells and other bits and pieces found on a family trip to the beach could inspire a whole range of learning opportunities for the children.*

As an early childhood professional, your Educator is also expected to work within the Early Years Learning Framework (the EYLF) to assist children to achieve particular learning outcomes.

We have attached some information about the EYLF and early learning. If you would like more information please visit the Starting Blocks website:

<http://www.startingblocks.gov.au/>

## **Playsession**

Every Thursday during school terms, between 10 am and 12 midday, Armidale & District Family Day Care offers playsession at Armidale Community Preschool in Allingham St (thanks to the generosity of Director, Sue Motley and her staff). *School holiday playsessions also take place but may happen on other days of the week.* Families are very welcome to join us.

## **Are you receiving our emails??**

Under Australian Legislation, AFDC is required to provide families with 1/4 family childcare usage statements. It has come to our attention that families are not receiving this via email through our software package. If you have not been receiving this by email please contact the Business Manager, Patricia Marson

## **Events**

A couple of Community Events to look forward to:

- The Armidale Show on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of March – some Educators are considering entering the children’s artwork in the pavilion competitions.
- and the Autumn Festival Parade on 18<sup>th</sup> March- we will be opening our office in Faulkner Street to families. It would be lovely to meet you if we haven’t met you during the enrolment process. We have a nappy change facilities should you need them while watching the parade.

*Other events are listed on our website*  
[www.armidaleanddistrictfamilydaycare.com](http://www.armidaleanddistrictfamilydaycare.com)