Family Newsletter

Autumn 2022

**Welcome to our** **Autumn 2022 Newsletter**

** Autumn Vacation Care**

I am attaching our Autumn Vacation Care Programme, hot off the press, along with a Booking Sheet. The Programme has been developed in response to requests from children enrolled in After School Care. The Department of Education has scheduled a Pupil Free Day for Tuesday, April 26, and our service, as you can see from the Programme, will be open.

We have already received a number of bookings from families requiring care, so once again suggest that you place your bookings as soon as you can, to avoid disappointment.

Please remember to ensure that children attending Vacation Care come armed with adequate food for the day, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. Even on those days where we plan to bake, or enjoy a Pizza, these are treats and are not designed to satisfy the hunger pangs of a very busy child. Each child should also have their own water bottle, filled each morning. We will top them up as the day goes on.

Given our changeable climate, all children should come along with warm clothes and a change in case they need it, closed in shoes and a hat.

On *Bikes and Scooter Day,* children will need to bring their bike or scooter and their crash hat.

**Updating Your Enrolment Details**

As we endeavour to transition to online enrolments and electronic attendances, I would be grateful if all our families could take a few moments to update your enrolment details. As some of you have been supporting our service for many years; the contact details and authorised contacts that you provided us in 2015 are likely to have changed in that time. We have recently been reminded by the Regulatory authority of our duty to maintain ‘*the name, address and contact details”* of any person who is a family’s authorised nominee.

Our transition to electronic attendance records is also reliant on families’ providing us with email addresses of anyone who is authorised to collect a child so that we can send them PINs.

An Enrolment Update Form is attached to this Newsletter.

**Our Coordination Team**

For the information of our new families, Armidale Out of School Hours Care is sponsored by Armidale & District Family Day Care Ltd. Our Family Day Care team works closely with Sharon Conroy, OSHC Nominated Supervisor, and myself in supporting the management and delivery of service. You will no doubt be speaking to one of us when you call the office.

To assist you, this is a brief overview of their roles within our organisation.

Charlotte Cairncross is a dual one; Nominated Supervisor and Coordinator of Family Day Care. Charlie’s role is to ensure the provision of a high quality early childhood education and care service which meets the needs of enrolled children and families and ensure our compliance with the National Quality Framework, law and Regulations.

Lois Walkowiak is employed as Coordinator and along with Charlie, provides support for Educators, families and children. Coordinators provide a vital link between Educators, families and management, provide regular home visits and fulfill multiple roles in relation to professional development, and many other facets of the service’s operation.

 Whilst Sharon Conroy’s primary role in the Company is that of Nominated Supervisor of Armidale Out of School Hours Care, Sharon also has the role of Educational Leader of Family Day Care. In her role, Sharon leads the development and implementation of educational programmes within Educators’ individual programmes.

 Our Coordination Unit at 95 Faulkner Street continues to operate from Monday to Thursday from 8.30 to 4.30.

**Changes to Child Care Subsidy from March 7**

From March 7, families with more than one child aged 5 or under

 are receiving a higher Child Care subsidy (CCS) for their second and

youngest child. Families may be eligible if:

* They earn less than $354,305, and
* Have more than one child aged 5 or under in childcare.

Services Australia has more information on their website: https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au

**Staying Healthy in Family Day Care in 2022**

We would remind families that children cannot attend care if they are showing evident signs of being unwell; Company policy around the exclusion of sick children from care has always been based on NSW Health’s pre-existing legislation. In the current climate, it is even more imperative. If children are showing any signs of COVID 19, include fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, loss of smell/taste, muscle/joint pains, diarrhea, nausea/vomiting, extreme tiredness, unexplained chest pain or conjunctivitis, they cannot attend care. If symptoms of this nature occur, you should undertake a rapid antigen test and follow the directions currently in place on the NSW Health website.

As advice regarding COVID-19 is constantly evolving we suggest that direct their enquiries to the NSW Health website: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19>

**Absences from After School Care**

If your child/ren are going to be absent from care due to illness, family commitments etc. please call or text Sharon and her team on the OSHC Mobile, 0427 803768 **before 2 pm** whenever possible, particularly if we are collecting your children from ACPS, Ben venue, etc. A considerable amount of time can be wasted trying to find out if a child is absent from school or ”missing”. It is stressful for staff and other children on the bus when we cannot account for the absence of a child or children.

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| **BASC Vouchers**Thank you for your patience while we “learn to drive” this incentive from the Department of Education and Infrastructure. Our registration is in progress and participating families will be advised of the allocation of their vouchers very soon. If you are sending us BASC vouchers, you can email them to patricia@afdc.org.au. If you are sending a photo please make sure that it is legible.**Becoming a Family Day Care Educator** Are you or someone you know is passionate about working with children and want to play a part in shaping their futures while running your own business from home? Why not combine your passion for children with the opportunity to create a rewarding, flexible and lucrative career as a professional Family Day Care Educator?Armidale Family Day Care is currently undertaking a recruitment campaign to recruit Educators to meet the growing need for early childhood education and care in our region. For appropriate applicants, generous incentives are available to assist in the registration process. For further information, please contact our Coordination Unit team: admin@afdc.org.au or telephone 0267725300.On behalf of our management and team, thank you  for your ongoing support of our local, community- based service; we value the input of all partners and  welcome your feedback to assist in our continuous  improvement. **Patricia Marson**Business Manager |  |
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