

# NEWSLETTER

#### Service Newsletter June 2024

In the embrace of Mother Earth lies the essence of our being. To care for her is to honour the roots from which we spring and the legacy we leave for generations yet to come. Teach our children that each footstep upon her soil carries the weight of responsibility; let it tread lightly, mindful of the delicate balance we are entrusted to uphold. Our connection to land is not merely physical, but spiritual. Let us teach our children to nurture, protect, and preserve our Earth, for in her sustenance we find our own.

# Visitors & Residents over 18 Years of Age

We have had a few families ask us questions about clearances required for Educator's family members and visitors to the service while their children are in care. All adults over 18 years of age residing at a Family Day Care residence are required to obtain a National Polic Clearance and Working With Children card every 3 years. Similarly, adults visiting on a temporary basis (*Visits more than twice a week and stays for more than two hours at a time while children are in care; or Stays overnight at the Educator's home or on the Educator's property more than twice a month on an ongoing basis; or Stays in the Educator's home or on the Educator's property for any longer than two consecutive 24-hour periods whilst the service is in operation) will require the same clearances. In addition, Educators must ensure that a Risk Assessment and Parent Acknowledgement form has been completed and submitted within 7 days or prior to a visitor's arrival. As always, all adults that visit the premises while children are in care must sign the Visitor's book.* 

### Be You Children's Book

Are you looking for a great book to read to your child? "Be You" by Peter H. Reynolds is a children's book that celebrates individuality and self-expression. Through simple yet reflective illustrations and text, it encourages readers to embrace their unique qualities, follow their passions, and be confident in who they are. The book emphasizes the importance of staying true to oneself, even in the face of challenges or societal expectations. It inspires readers to celebrate their differences and recognize the beauty in being authentic. Overall, "Be You" encourages children to embrace their identity and live life with courage and authenticity. For an interactive read aloud book for children click <a href="here">here</a> or for a reading of the book click <a href=here</a>. For more fantastic ideas on children's books have a look at <a href="MaiStoryBookLibrary">MaiStoryBookLibrary</a> on Instagram!

## **Another Great Resource**

Have you heard of a website called <u>Ozzie</u>? This wonderful resource is full of Educational Videos for Children. We hope you find some value in this and that you and your child/ren enjoy it!

# **Deciphering Your Family Day Care Fee Invoice**

We know these can be tricky to view so below is a quick reference sheet that illustrates what each section refers to. If you still have queries feel free to call or email the Admin team for assistance

Invoices - A Parent/Guardians Quick guide

Where Children Can be Children

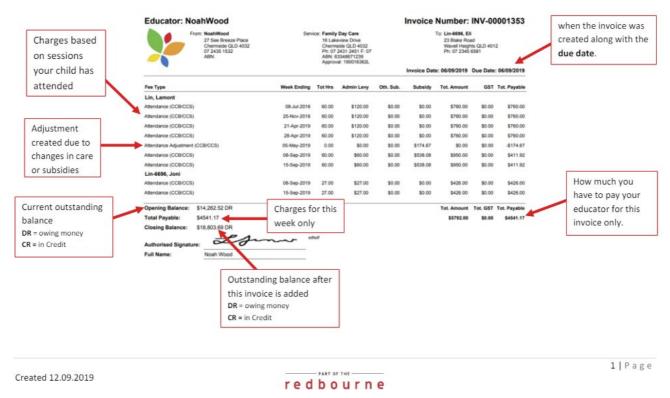


PO Box 505, Dunsborough WA 6281 | Tel: 0431 449 567 | info@naturealliancefdc.com.au | www.naturealliancefdc.com.au

ABN: 16 164 122 847 DESE Registration No: 1900 115 11J



# Invoices - A Parent's Quick Guide



## **Helping Families Access Care**

Did you know that families can now get at least 36 hours of Child Care Subsidy (CCS) per fortnight for each Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander child in their care? This is regardless of the family's activity level. If you would like to find out more about this change you will find a host of information and resources at Activity test for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children - Department of Education, Australian Government

# **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 3.1 Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness
- Policy 23 Record of Visitors to the FDC Residence or Venue.
- Policy 25 Keeping a Register of Service Staff, Educators Assistants, Students & Volunteers
- Policy 27 Provision of Information, Support & Professional Development to FDC Educators & Assistants.
- Policy 30 Engagement of FDC Educators
- Policy 32 Social Media

## **Updated Policies**

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

- Policy 1.5 Tobacco, Drug & Alcohol Free Environment
- Policy 5.1 Delivery & Collection of Children
- Policy 5.2 Excursions & Regular Outings
- Policy 15 Absences from Care
- Policy 31 –Exemption for Additional Children



## **Assessment & Rating Outcome**

We are pleased to announce that Nature Alliance has met all the National Quality Standards. A heartfelt thank you to our amazing Educators who participated in the Assessment and Rating process. We can appreciate how stressful it was having the Assessors visit their services, but it was wonderful to see that they were full of praise for the exceptional work the Educators do with your children. They shared many positive observations with our team, and we are thrilled they experienced the magic of Family Day Care. We are immensely proud of our Educators and the outstanding work they do. Our unwavering focus remains on the well-being and development of the children in our care. We firmly believe in the excellence of our service and Educators, and we are committed to continuing to provide the exemplary care and education your children deserve.

## Escalation and De-Escalation Process: The use of Validating Language

Validating language is a powerful tool in acknowledging and respecting others' feelings and experiences, and it plays a crucial role in fostering emotional growth and resilience. To give you a closer look at this approach, Kelly who is a child development and behaviour specialist has kindly provided a short <u>video</u> that outlines practical applications of this strategy.

## **Child Safe Organisations**

Western Australian children and young people are regularly involved in activities and organisations outside of the home – including school, sport, recreation and health care – that are provided by government, non-government and community-based organisations. Children and young people rely on the adults entrusted with their care to both protect and empower them to be safe from any form of abuse or harm. To achieve this, every organisation must embed a child safe culture across all activities and services, with leaders, staff and volunteers being vigilant in providing child safe and friendly environments and interactions. Nature Alliance FDC is committed to embedding the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations into our everyday practices and we are continuously updating policies and procedures to reflect this commitment. The Commissioner has developed a range of resources which reflect the ten National Principles for Child Safe Organisations endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments which we would love to share with you.

#### Information from The Australian Department of Education

Please be aware that if you received Childcare Subsidy (CCS) during the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 financial years, you must confirm your income for both years by June 30, 2024. This is crucial as it may significantly affect your current CCS percentage. For more information, please visit the Services Australia Website.

## 2024 Excellence in Family Day Care Awards

Nominations are now officially open for the Family Day Care Australia (FDCA) 2024 Excellence in Family Day Care Awards! These awards celebrate the outstanding contributions of Educators, Coordinators, and Services in delivering high-quality early childhood education and care. These are the only awards in Australia exclusively dedicated to Family Day Care. By placing a nomination and spreading the word, you will help elevate the profile of the entire Family Day Care community. We would like to thank those who have already nominated their Educator. It has been wonderful to see the positive impact your nominations have had on them. There is still time to nominate, so please take a moment to express your appreciation for your Educator's dedication and care. Nominations close on July 4, 2024. To nominate your Educator click on this link.

### **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 <u>contact us</u> through our website or find us on <u>Facebook</u>.