

Service Newsletter October 2024

Welcome to the October edition of our newsletter! We are excited to share some important updates and useful resources with you, including fun activities like making pink lemonade playdough. There are also some policy updates we would love your feedback on. We're pleased to introduce new trauma-informed resources to help you and your children thrive, as well as details about the Smith Family Save Plus program, which can help with school costs. We hope you enjoy this edition and, as always, please reach out if you have any questions.

Would You Consider a Career in Childcare?

If you enjoy working with children or even being at home with your own children, Family Day Care could be the job for you. We currently have vacancies for Educators in Broome, Kalgoorlie, Kununurra, Busselton/Dunsborough, Margaret River and Manjimup/Bridgetown. If you have a minimum qualification of a Certificate III in Children's Services, or the equivalent, and don't have a pool, spa or water hazard on your property feel free to contact us for further information. You can also have a look at our [website](#) for more details.

Play at the heart of Education

We all know that whatever your age or stage, curiosity focused, self-driven education is the most effective way to learn. Children do this naturally from the day they are born via play and Educators are well skilled to support this natural instinct. You can find out more about this in [Starting Blocks](#).

Policies being Updated

The following Policies are being updated and we invite and welcome any feedback, suggestions or additions:

- Policy 1.2 [Sun Protection](#)
- Policy 3.3 [First Aid Administration](#)
- Policy 4 [Serious Incidents, Emergencies & Evacuations](#)
- Policy 7 [Confidentiality, Privacy & Educator Record Management](#)
- Policy 11 [Participation of Volunteers & Students on Practicum](#)
- Policy 29 [Educator Leave](#)

Building Resilient Foundations: Trauma-Informed Resources for Families

We are excited to share some incredible, tailored resources developed specifically for us by a psychologist from Core of Wellbeing. These tools are designed to support your wellbeing and help build resilience in your daily practice. The resources include "[8 Simple Habits to Help You Flourish](#)," a [step-by-step guide to creating a life you love](#), and [tips on transforming your habits with neuroscience](#). There are also additional [materials](#) available to explore. These resources are practical, easy to implement, and offer valuable strategies for enhancing both your personal and professional wellbeing. By integrating these habits into your routine, you can create a more positive and balanced environment for yourself and your children.

The Smith Family Saver Plus Program

Starting School is generally an exciting time for young people and the Saver Plus program supports families in your community with some of the costs involved. For every dollar you save, you will receive another dollar from ANZ to spend towards educational costs, up to \$500. If you would like to check your eligibility then please do so at [Our Saver Plus financial literacy program](#) (thesmithfamily.com.au) or you're welcome to call their national number 1300 610 355 and a local coordinator will contact you directly.

WHERE CHILDREN CAN BE CHILDREN



Children attending care unwell

As the warmer weather arrives, we all start moving around and connecting with each other more, but with that comes with the sharing of germs. Spring still holds a lot of opportunities for illness and sending your little one to Family Day Care when they are fighting something can cause a domino effect. Other children in care catch it and take it home to share with their family and your Educator also becomes unwell.

Please consider others around you and make plans to keep your unwell child at home. This limits the spread of germs and ensures your Educator is healthy and available to provide care. It is also much more disruptive to have to leave work and collect your unwell child, so if you feel something is brewing, please keep them home. To find out more about any coughs, rashes, or other medical conditions that you may be concerned about, feel free to access the updated Staying Healthy in Child Care 6th Edition [Staying healthy guidelines | NHMRC](#).

If your child is in care and your Educator is trying to contact you, please respond where possible in a timely manner. Your child may be unwell and needs to be collected. Your Educator will only contact you if it is something important and they need to talk to you.

Child Care Subsidy (CCS) Explained

Services Australia provide a subsidy to families calculated by assessing each family's income and assigning families a percentage of CCS they are eligible for and a set amount of hours per fortnight they can receive the subsidy for. The subsidy is applied on to up to \$13.24 per hour however any amount above that is not eligible for CCS and that portion is charged at full fees.

Services Australia also withhold an additional 5% which is balanced at the end of the financial year. You can find out more about this [here](#)

Nature Alliance submit timesheets to Services Australia each Monday to have any subsidy applied however it is an enrolling guardians responsibility to ensure that their details are correct with Services Australia to be eligible for the subsidy.

Child Care Subsidy balancing has started (CCS) for the 2023–24 financial year

To ensure that you are eligible for CCS you must confirm your income so Services Australia can balance your CCS. You can confirm your income by:

- lodging your tax return with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), or
- telling Services Australia you don't need to lodge a tax return, even if you've already told the ATO.

Once Services Australia has balanced your CCS, they will send you an outcome. Find out more [about CCS balancing](#) on the Services Australia website.

Cancelling Care

With the end of the year fast approaching and some children transitioning to school full time you may be considering care options moving forward. In the case that you need to cancel care please let your Educator know taking into account the required cancellation timeframe as detailed on your Educator's fee schedule. Children must be present on the last day of care to be eligible for CCS. ***If they are absent on their last day of care full fees will apply back until when they were last physically in care.*** Your Educator will provide you with a *Cancellation of Care* form for you to complete which allows you to provide details to receive your Holding Fee refund. If you would like to change a booking or utilize before or after school care please chat to your Educator to discuss vacancies or express your interest.

Having Enough Funds in your Account

A few families have unfortunately been charged dishonour fees by RedPay for not having sufficient funds in their account. We have consulted with RedPay and they confirm that funds are deducted just after midnight every Thursday (if you are paying by Credit Card) or Friday (if you are paying by Direct Debit from your Bank Account). It is therefore essential that you check that you have sufficient funds in your account by midday on Wednesday (if you are paying by Credit Card) or midday on Thursday (if you are paying by Direct Debit from your Bank Account). Please feel free to contact the office if you need further information.

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Pink Lemonade Playdough

Prep 5 mins / Cook approx. 7 mins / PLAY

This pink lemonade playdough, from the Fireflies & Mudpies website, is soft, vibrant, and smells just like lemonade! Creative props for play could include a lemon juicer, paper straws, and small mason jars. You could even add pens and paper for older children to make *Fresh Lemonade* signs!

Ingredients

1 cup water

1 cup all-purpose flour

½ cup salt

1tsp vegetable oil

1 tbsp Cream of Tartar

5-8 drops Lemon essential oil

Pink food dye



Method

- Mix the water, flour, salt, vegetable oil, Cream of Tartar, and food dye together in a small saucepan.
- Cook the playdough mixture over medium heat, stirring frequently with a spatula, until the playdough clumps together into a ball.
- Dump playdough onto the counter and allow it to cool for a moment. When cool enough to touch, make a small well in the middle of the playdough with your fingertip and drop in the lemon essential oil. Kead well until dough is smooth and essential oil has been distributed.

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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