

SERVICE NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2026

As we settle into the year, this month's newsletter brings a mix of important updates and inspiring community news for our families. We're introducing the newest member of our Admin team, sharing changes to the Child Care Subsidy, and outlining a few helpful reminders about policies and fee processing. You'll also find highlights from one of our wonderful Educators, an exciting new small business launch within our community, and practical resources around online safety, healthy eating, simple wellbeing ideas, creative play, and book recommendations for raising kind and confident children. Grab a cuppa, have a quick read, and see what's helpful for you and your family this month.

DO YOU LOVE WORKING WITH CHILDREN?

Nature Alliance Family Day Care is thrilled to share that we have been selected to participate in the Family Day Care Australia Capability Trial. This trial focuses on supporting the growth of Family Day Care while ensuring strong business and compliance practices. As part of this Recruitment Stream, **start-up funding is now available through Nature Alliance FDC** for eligible new Family Day Care Educators. If you would like to run your own Family Day Care business from the comfort of your own home, and you have a Certificate III in Children's Services (or equivalent) to run your own business, then this might be the perfect time to combine family life with a fulfilling career. With the potential for a lucrative income and the flexibility to work independently, this could be your perfect path. We currently have vacancies for Educators in Broome, Kalgoorlie, Kununurra, Busselton/Dunsborough, Margaret River, and Manjimup/Bridgetown. If you don't have a pool, spa, or water hazard on your property, contact us to learn more and start your Family Day Care journey today! Our [website](#) also has heaps of information about registering your Family Day Care with us.

ADMIN TEAM UPDATE

We are delighted to introduce Caitlin as the newest member of our Nature Alliance Admin team. Caitlin has been with us for a couple of weeks and is already settling in beautifully. With a background in early childhood, she is looking forward to learning more about the unique world of Family Day Care and supporting our families and Educators. If you happen to speak with Caitlin over the phone, please feel free to say hello and introduce yourself. As she continues to learn the ins and outs of our service, your patience and warmth are always appreciated. We are very excited to have her on board and know she will be a wonderful support to our community. Caitlin will be available Monday to Wednesday between 9:00am and 4:30pm.



3 DAY CHILD CARE SUBSIDY GUARANTEE

From 5th January 2026, the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) activity test has been replaced. All families eligible for CCS are able to access at least 72 hours of subsidised care per fortnight. This new update is called the 3 Day CCS Guarantee! You do not need to do anything if you already receive CCS. You will still need to meet the usual CCS eligibility and entitlement requirements and continue to pay a gap fee.

For more information about the 3 Day Guarantee, visit the [Department of Education's website](#) or the [Services Australia](#) website.

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POLICIES

The following policies have been updated. A big thank you to the parents who provided input, your suggestions really do make a difference. To access updated copies on the website, click the links below.

- [Policy 26](#) – Monitoring Support & Supervision
- [Policy 31](#) – Exception to Ratios
- [Policy 1.4](#) – Sleep and Rest Policy

The following policies are currently being updated. This is your opportunity to provide feedback, obtain clarification and offer suggestions:

- [Policy 1.4](#) – Sleep & Rest
- [Policy 15](#) – Absences from Care
- [Policy 16](#) – Physical Activity
- [Policy 25](#) – Keeping a Register of Service Staff, Assistants, Students & Volunteers
- [Policy 27](#) – Provision of Information

HELP! WHEN DO MY CHILD CARE FEES GET DEDUCTED?

Ongoing Parent Gap Fees are collected by redPAY automatically each week following the week care is provided.

The usual schedule looks like this:

Monday – Last weeks signed timesheets are sent to Centrelink to have Child Care Subsidy applied (if eligible)

Tuesday - Parent/Guardians are sent an Invoice for the remaining fee.

Wednesday - Invoice payments begin drawing from your nominated account by 10am.

Thursday - Credit cards payments finish drawing and receipt

Friday - Bank Accounts draw and receipt (sometimes this carries over to Monday dependant on bank)

*Public holidays delay this process sometimes creating clashes to invoicing and receipting.

If the funds are not available in your account and the payment declines a declined transaction fee of \$8.70 is charged by redPAY and added to your account. If your account is overdue, you will receive reminders and your position at your Family Day Care may be cancelled. In the case that you are having some difficulty please contact our admin team so that we can arrange a payment plan to avoid additional costs. We are here to help 😊

INTRODUCING EVERGREEN CHILD!

We are excited to share that Katrina has launched a new online shop, [Evergreen Child](#) .It's full of unique materials and resources to support children's learning, creativity, and play. From hands-on activities to thoughtfully designed learning tools, there's plenty to discover.

HI FROM ORELIA

Chris has been an early childhood educator for over 33 years, with Family Day Care occupying the last 22 years. Chris believes that children thrive when they feel safe, secure and genuinely happy. The environment that she has created is welcoming, caring and inclusive, it's a place where we see children enjoying playing together and forming strong relationships. Chris encourages children to make choices, express themselves, and take part in both free play and optional structured experiences. Her environment is not only safe and engaging, but also fosters a sense of responsibility, as children are supported to care for their surroundings as part of everyday routines. A memorable moment from one of our visits was when we were luck enough to watch a caterpillar making a cryalis right before our eyes! It's magical moments like these that make us even more proud of the wonderful care that our Educators offer!



CHILD PROTECTION AND ONLINE SAFETY

Child protection and online safety go hand in hand. With many children spending increasing amounts of time on screens at home, the risk of exposure to inappropriate or unsafe content is very real. While children in Family Day Care are rarely online during care hours, having simple, proactive conversations about safe internet habits can make a meaningful difference.

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We encourage families to explore the helpful tips and body safety resources available on the website below. It offers practical guidance to support children in navigating the online world safely:

<https://www.childsafe.org.au/help-for-families/e-safety-online/>

PLAYGROUP PAUSE & NATURE ADVENTURE: THE BENEFITS OF CLAY

Have you ever considered exploring clay with your child? I am sure your mind goes to mess, mess and more mess!!



But clay is far from that, set up in the right space it affords hours of exploration, creativity and fun. The planning that goes into that damp clay, working out how to pinch pieces together to join them, fixing things when it is not working all contributes to healthy brain development & problem solving. Working with the clay assists fine motor skill development, it strengthens little hands as the squeeze, pinch and shape the clay which assists with later skills such as writing & cutting. Self-expression, creativity & manipulation of the clay assists with emotional regulation & wellbeing. You can purchase clay at art supply shops or

Kmart. Have a little spray bottle handy to keep the clay damp and just have fun with your child. You never know you might discover your inner George or better known as the [Mad Potter of Biloxi!](#)

HEALTHY EATING HABITS FOR CHILDREN

With our schedules packed, it can be tough to keep healthy meals on the table—especially when kids are picky eaters. A simple conversation about how food fuels their bodies can make a big.

Below is a fantastic resource that offers practical tips for talking to children about nutrition and guiding parents through the many aspects of healthy eating.

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/toddlers/nutrition-fitness/healthy-eating-habits/healthy-eating-habits>

When it's time to pack lunch for the first day of school, invite your child to help choose the items. Discussing what's inside the lunchbox together can turn a routine task into a fun learning moment. Below is a website with some great recipes.

<https://www.taste.com.au/galleries/healthy-lunchbox-recipes-school/8ttlvsdd>

WELLBEING SPOTLIGHT

🌱 5-Minute Energy Reset 🌱 On those extra busy days your body can hold extra stress and extra energy. This simple [5-minute reset](#) uses gentle movement and breathing to help you shake off tension, clear your head, and feel more grounded and energised perfect for a quick pause. There is no right or wrong way to do it. Just move, breathe, and let your body reset. Even a few minutes can help shift your mindset and bring a calmer, more focused energy back into your day.

Bonus: This is something you can easily do with your children too. Gentle shaking, stretching and deep breaths are great for helping regulation, release wiggles, and transition into the next part of the day.

BOOKS FOR RAISING BOYS WHO.....

Are emotionally intelligent – Rajiv's Starry Feelings

Know how to regulate anger and frustration – I am a Thundercloud

Are not afraid to be emotionally vulnerable – [The Noise Inside Boys](#)

Respect body boundaries – Hugs are (not) for everybody!

Ask for consent – Want a hug?

Challenge gender stereotypes – [Boys don't Fry](#)

Are gentle and caring – [The Gentle Bulldozer](#)

Form Positive, health relationships and friendships – [The Friendship Guide](#)

Can embrace failure and handle rejection – [Wei Skates On](#)

Many families may be feeling unsettled by recent news stories and public conversations highlighting harmful behaviours and toxic masculinity. With children increasingly exposed to social media, online platforms and broader media narratives,

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it's understandable that parents may feel concerned about the messages young boys are absorbing about identity, power and relationships.

As technology continues to evolve in ways we can't always predict, it isn't possible to monitor every influence children will encounter. What we can do, however, is be intentional about the values we nurture at home. Books are a powerful way to support this. Stories create safe opportunities to explore empathy, respect, emotional awareness and healthy expressions of masculinity.

If we want to raise kind, compassionate and emotionally intelligent boys and young men, the following picture books offer a meaningful place to begin.



WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING?

If you ever feel unsure or concerned about anything related to your child's Family Day Care service, it's important to speak up. Start by having a chat with your Educator or contact Nature Alliance directly. Services are required to clearly display contact details of who to speak to about complaints or concerns. If you feel that your concern hasn't been resolved or would like to report it to the regulatory authority, you can contact the Education and Care Regulatory Unit (ECRU). They will listen to your concerns and investigate what's happening. For more information or to make a report, scan the QR code to take you to the ECRU website for more information on the National Quality Framework and for details on how to report a concern. Raising concerns helps us all ensure the best outcomes for children in care.

Report Concern



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](#).

*"Most of your stress comes from the way you respond, not the way life is.
Adjust your attitude and all that extra stress is gone!" - Anon*

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