

JUNE 2026

As the cooler days of *Makuru* settle in and winter wraps itself around us, it's the perfect time to slow down, embrace cosy moments, and enjoy the simple pleasures this season brings. Whether it's sharing a warm breakfast with your family, snuggling up with a favourite book, or heading outdoors to explore nature between the rain showers, winter offers plenty of opportunities to create special memories together. In this edition, we've included important reminders about Child Care Subsidy changes and the new financial year, along with practical ideas to support your child's learning and wellbeing. From the importance of a healthy breakfast to fun colour hunts in nature, loose parts play, and books guaranteed to make your little one giggle, we hope you'll find plenty of inspiration to enjoy with your family over the coming weeks.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE

Annual Membership invoices will be issued shortly and will be due for payment by **31 July**. If you require a payment plan, please contact the Admin Team as soon as possible to discuss available options before your membership becomes overdue.

DEALING WITH ILLNESS

As we approach the colder months, now is a timely opportunity to remind Educators about the main resource [Staying Healthy: Preventing Infectious Diseases in Early Childhood Education and Care Services \(6th Edition\)](#) used to guide practice when it comes to any illness that may come your way. A best-practice resource for supporting the health and wellbeing of children, educators and families. The publication provides practical strategies to help reduce the transmission of infectious diseases within education and care settings. Create a shortcut link or download the resource to refer to as required. Also feel free to share with families so that they are aware of illness expectations.

HOLDING FEES & NON-PAYMENT

This is your reminder that when you are enrolling families it is important that you let them know that you will not be able to accept their child into care until they have paid their Holding Fee! If you decide to accept the child before the Holding Fee has been paid, then **you risk the chance of providing care for free!** The Admin Team will not process a timesheet until the fee has been paid. It is also important that you keep an eye on your emails, particularly on a Friday, as this is when Sandra sends emails to your families about non-payment. If you accept a child into care when outstanding fees have not been settled, you risk providing care when a timesheet cannot be processed. Legally, Nature Alliance is unable to process timesheets unless payment has been received or a mutually agreed payment plan is in place. If a child does not appear on your dashboard this generally means that something is not right with the enrolment or the fees. Please check the status of the families before the day that the child is due to attend. If something is unclear, and it's after hours, please call Jo Georgiou and she will guide you.

BOOKED HOURS AND EARLY PICK UPS

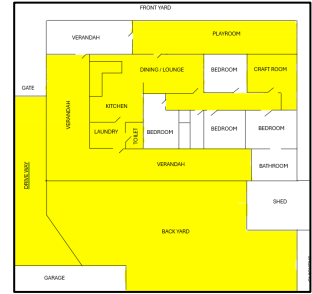
If you have to close early for any reason, remember to let the Admin Team know so that the timesheets for that day can be adjusted. Educators cannot charge their standard day fees if they have to close their service early. It is essential to remember that you can only charge for care that you can provide. Chat to the Admin team if you need guidance or clarification.

WHERE CHILDREN CAN BE CHILDREN



MAP OF REGISTERED AREAS

When ECRU comes to visit, they will ask you for a map of your registered areas. They will use this map as their guide as to which areas they need to check. It is essential that your map is accurate and that every room that is registered meets the requirements of the National Law and Regulations. If you are not going to use the room for a short period of time, then you are advised to submit a [Modification form](#), indicating the period that the space is not in use. Your ESOs will be checking these spaces over the next support visit to ensure that you are compliant. If you are unsure about anything, please chat to them about it.



NATURE ALLIANCE PHILOSOPHY

As part of our ongoing review of Nature Alliance's Child Safe Organisation practices, we recently reflected on our Service Philosophy. While children's safety has always been our highest priority and underpins every decision we make, we recognised that this wasn't explicitly reflected in our Philosophy.

We have therefore updated the opening paragraph to clearly acknowledge every child's right to feel safe, secure and supported, ensuring our Philosophy truly reflects the values and commitment to child safety that guide our practice every day. Your ESO will be delivering a new copy of the Philosophy for your records, however it can also be viewed [here](#).

TEMPLATE UPDATES

The following templates have been updated with the intention of reducing some paperwork! These templates are used when you have regular visitors or are expecting a temporary resident or if you have a registered Educator Assistant. All families only have to sign one document rather than a separate one for each family.

- [NA-FRM-0033](#) – Parent Acknowledgement of Regular Visitors & Temporary Residents
- NA-FRM-0021 – Parent Authorisation for the Use of an Educator Assistant (available upon request from the Admin Team)

POLICY UPDATES

The following policies have been updated and uploaded to the website. They are being delivered to you by your ESO over the next support visit:

- [Policy 2](#) – Interactions with Children
- [Policy 5.1](#) – Delivery & Collection of Children
- [Policy 30](#) – Engagement of FDC Educators
- [Policy 41](#) – **NEW POLICY** – Protected Disclosures (Whistle Blower) Policy

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Did you know that the Nature Alliance website has a dedicated page with suggested websites offering sector-specific professional development opportunities? Many of you have been keeping on top of your professional development requirements, and it has been wonderful to hear about all the interesting things you have been learning. Some of the training has sparked beautiful reflective conversations, and it has been incredibly motivating to share these discussions with you. They remind us just how important our role is and reinforce the value of staying informed about the latest research, ideas and issues impacting early childhood education and care. If you're looking for some inspiration and aren't sure where to start, simply log into the Nature Alliance website and click [here](#).

EDUCATIONAL LEADERS

An Educational Leader supports Educators to reflect on their practice, build confidence and continually improve the quality of education and care they provide. In Family Day Care, this doesn't mean telling Educators what to do. Instead, it means working alongside them—asking thoughtful questions, sharing ideas and resources, celebrating successes, and encouraging meaningful reflection that leads to positive outcomes for children. An Educational Leader helps create a culture of continuous improvement, where every Educator is supported to



grow professionally while developing programs that are responsive to the interests, strengths and needs of the children in their care. Can you guess who your Educational Leaders are?

SPECIAL EVENTS IN JULY

July offers a wonderful range of cultural celebrations, well-being focuses, and nature-based opportunities to inspire children's learning, relationships, and curiosity.

NAIDOC Week (5th–12th July) - EYLF Outcomes: 1 & 2

A time to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories, and contributions through stories, art, music, and connection to Country.

10th July – Matariki (Māori New Year) - EYLF Outcome: 2

A celebration of reflection, gratitude, remembrance, and new beginnings.

12th – 18th July – National Diabetes Week - EYLF Outcome: 3

Opportunities to explore health, wellbeing, healthy choices, and caring for our bodies.

17th July – National Pyjama Day - EYLF Outcome: 2

A fun way to promote kindness, comfort, storytelling, and awareness of supporting children in need.


24th July – Schools Tree Day - EYLF Outcome: 2


Encourages connection to nature through planting, exploring, and caring for the environment.


30th July – International Friendship Day - EYLF Outcome: 1

Focus on belonging, kindness, empathy, and building positive relationships.

Additional Inspiration

 **Christmas in July** - A creative opportunity for pretend play, cooking, cultural traditions, and celebrating kindness and giving.

 **Teddy Bear Picnic / Winter Cosy Play** - Invite children to explore comfort, imagination, and social play through shared picnic experiences.

 **Everyday Wellbeing & Kindness** - Use winter moments to support emotional regulation, mindfulness, gratitude, and acts of kindness.

FOOD SAFETY TIP

Keeping our environments clean and safe is an important part of. Following recent Environmental Health Officer visits, some educators have been encouraged to review the sanitiser products they are currently using and ensure they meet the required food-grade standards. Now is a great time to check your sanitiser bottle and confirm it is suitable for use for food preparation. One product that has been recommended by some Environmental Health Officers is a food-safe surface cleaner such as [Northfork Food Surface Sanitiser](#).

Remember, requirements can vary between different shires, so it is always important to check that your chosen products align with your local Environmental Health guidelines.

If you are unsure whether your current sanitiser is suitable, please reach out we are happy to support you in checking. 😊

CHILD BODY SAFETY

"A child is only as safe as the environment and people surrounding them." – Kristi McVee



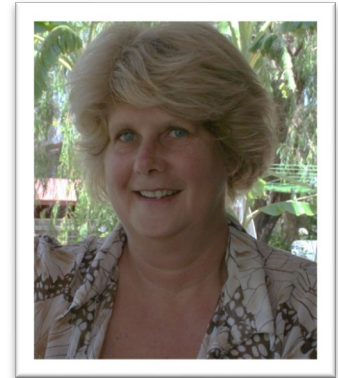
Kristi McVee is a former Child Abuse Detective with the Western Australia Police Force, where she spent 10 years investigating child sexual abuse and online child exploitation. During her career, she trained as a Specialist Child Interviewer and worked as a Detective Senior Constable, supporting children and families through some very challenging circumstances. Since retiring from policing, Kristi has dedicated her time to educating and supporting communities through webinars, courses and practical resources focused on child safety and protective behaviours.



This month, your Educator Support Officer will be providing you with a valuable resource to share with the children in your care: ***Conversations with Kids – Body Safety for Children Aged 1–4 Years***. The booklet contains useful information, conversation starters and practical ideas to help introduce body safety concepts in an age-appropriate way. If you would like to explore more of Kristi's resources, training opportunities and information on child safety, visit her website: [Kristi McVee – Child Safety Expert](#). We encourage all Educators to take some time to explore the resources available and consider how they can support children in developing a strong understanding of body safety and protective behaviours.

HI FROM BUSSELTON

Jane has been a Family Day Care educator for many years, and it is a pleasure to recognise the positive impact she has within her community. Jane is strongly committed to inclusive practice and provides thoughtful, responsive support for children with additional needs. Her dedication to ensuring every child experiences a sense of belonging, and joy reflected in her everyday practice. One of Jane's key strengths is her strong connection to the community. She and the children regularly venture out into local environments. Jane also uses specialist equipment to support full participation, ensuring all children are included and able to thrive within her program. Jane's passion for supporting the children she works with is truly inspiring. Her interactions and the difference she makes for children and families is powerful to witness and leaves a lasting impression. Thank you, Jane, for the incredible work you do and the heart you bring to inclusive practice.



AEDC DATA – LOOKING BEYOND VULNERABILITY – FOCUSING ON CHILDREN'S STRENGTHS

When we hear the word *vulnerability*, it can be easy to focus on what children are not yet doing. However, the AEDC is not about looking for problems, it's about looking for possibilities. Instead, it provides a snapshot of how communities of children are developing and highlights opportunities to strengthen outcomes through intentional, responsive practice. Every child brings their own unique strengths, interests, abilities and ways of learning, and these are the foundations we should continue to build upon.

In Family Day Care, a strengths-based approach means recognising and celebrating what children can already do while gently supporting the skills that are still emerging. A child who confidently explores the outdoor environment may be developing physical confidence, while another who enjoys caring for younger children may be demonstrating empathy and social competence. By noticing children's capabilities first, Educators can intentionally extend learning through meaningful experiences that foster confidence, resilience and a love of learning. When we focus on strengths alongside areas for growth, we help children develop a positive sense of identity and create environments where every child has the opportunity to thrive.

Reflect on:

- How do you intentionally recognise and celebrate each child's strengths during your everyday interactions and observations?
- In what ways do you use children's interests and existing abilities as a starting point for planning experiences and extending learning?
- How can focusing on children's strengths help build their confidence while supporting skills that are still developing?

You can explore AEDC data for your local community at the [AEDC Community Data Explorer](#).



POT PLANT HOLDERS

We always have those plastic bottles lying around, sometimes we use them but mostly they go into recycling. Now you can repurpose them and create beautiful pot plant holders for the garden. This experience puts a focus on recycling, construction, art and horticulture! The picture says it all, cut the bottle and poke holes around the edge. Get busy with the children and see what patterns and colors are used. Once dry I would seal the artwork otherwise it may wash off in time. Add soil and seedlings and hang to admire. So easy and fun to create and it is then an experience that keeps on giving, they are enjoyed daily and plants can be updated when needed. You've also now created spaces that attract butterflies, bees, lady bugs and more so this could also be an extension for your bug learning. Have fun 😊



WORD OF THE DAY

Reflection – in early childhood education, reflection is much more than writing a paragraph at the end of an activity or asking yourself whether children had fun. True reflection is the process of critically thinking about your practice, questioning your decisions, and considering how your actions influence children's learning, wellbeing, and development. It asks us to explore not only what happened, but why it happened, how children responded, what we learned, and what we might do differently next time. In Family Day Care, reflection occurs every day through conversations with children and families, observations, discussions with your ESO, professional development, and those quiet moments when you reconsider an interaction or learning experience. Reflection isn't about finding fault or documenting for the sake of compliance, it is about remaining curious, open to new perspectives, and committed to continuous improvement.



The most effective Educators don't simply ask, "Did this work?" They ask, "*What is this experience teaching me about this child, about my practice, and about how I can support learning more effectively?*"

WELLBEING SPOTLIGHT

Prioritising You: Free Professional Development & Wellbeing Support

As Family Day Care Educators, you provide vital, nurturing care to our community's children. However, managing an independent learning environment can sometimes feel isolated and demanding. That is why we are highlighting [Be You](#), Australia's national mental health initiative designed specifically to support **your** wellbeing and career growth. By registering for free as an individual, you unlock immediate access to accredited professional development and dedicated personal support networks:

- **Free Accredited PD:** Access online learning modules that count toward your professional development hours and build your skills in student resilience and family partnerships.
- **Educator Wellbeing Tools:** Download evidence-backed toolkits and [Be You Fact Sheets](#) packed with real-world strategies to help you manage daily stress, set boundaries, and prevent burnout.
- **Support Staff:** Educator Support Officers are here to guide you if you need help to navigate these free tools, track your training, and implement stress-management practices that fit seamlessly into your day-to-day practices.



Investing in your mental health is the best way to support the children in your care. To register your free individual account today and explore the resources, head to www.beyou.edu.au/resources to register and set-



up your profile. Please reach out to an Educator Support Officer for help registering or accessing the free Professional Development resources.

OFFICE HOURS

Our office hours are 8.30am to 4.30pm. If you have a query outside of these hours, please email or phone and leave a message. If you need to speak with someone in an emergency, please ring Jo Georgiou and if your call is not answered immediately, leave a message and your call will be returned.

PHONE NUMBERS

Sandra & Caitlin: 0431 449 567 (Mon – Fri); **Joy:** 0429 030 362 (Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri); **Jo C:** 0477 029 531 (Mon - Fri); **Jo G:** 0477 029 132 (Mon – Fri); **Lea:** 0477 029 228 (Mon, Tue, Thurs & Fri); **Brenda:** 0494 656 801 (Mon - Wed). To ensure that we respond to your emails promptly please send your queries to: info@naturealliancefdc.com.au

"Stay close to anything that makes you glad you are alive." - Hafiz

WHERE CHILDREN CAN BE CHILDREN

