

## SERVICE NEWSLETTER JUNE 2026

As the days grow shorter and the weather a little cooler, winter reminds us to slow down, spend time together, and appreciate the little moments that make childhood so special. Whether it's reading a favourite story under a blanket, jumping in muddy puddles, or sharing a warm cuddle at the end of the day, these simple experiences create memories that last a lifetime.

This month, we're sharing information about some important topics, including child safety, body safety conversations, updates to our Service Philosophy, and changes that may affect your family's care arrangements. We're also highlighting the wonderful work of one of our Educators, sharing some cosy winter book recommendations, and encouraging plenty of outdoor play—even if it means getting a little muddy!

As always, thank you for choosing Family Day Care and for allowing us to be part of your child's journey. We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter and perhaps discover something new to explore with your little one over the coming weeks.

### **FAMILY DAY CARE AUSTRALIA EXCELLENCE AWARDS – NOMINATIONS CLOSE 2<sup>ND</sup> JULY**

Every day, Family Day Care Educators go above and beyond to create safe, nurturing and inspiring environments where children can learn, grow and thrive. They celebrate milestones, comfort little hearts, encourage curious minds and become an important part of so many families' lives.

If your Educator has made a positive difference to your child or family, why not take a few minutes to nominate them for a **Family Day Care Australia Excellence Award**? Your nomination is a wonderful way to acknowledge their dedication and let them know just how much they are appreciated. Sometimes, simply knowing that a family has taken the time to recognise their hard work means more than any trophy ever could.

If you believe your Educator deserves to be celebrated, we encourage you to [submit a nomination](#). Good luck to all of our amazing Nature Alliance Educators!

**NOMINATE AN  
EDUCATOR**

### **CONFIRM YOUR 2024-25 FAMILY INCOME FOR CHILD CARE SUBSIDY (CCS) BEFORE 30 JUNE 2026**

If you got CCS in the 2024-25 financial year, you will need to confirm your family income now. If you don't do this by 30 June, your CCS will stop and you'll have to pay full fees for any childcare you use from 6 July 2026. Read more on the [Services Australia website](#).

### **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 may be 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

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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.

### **NATURE ALLIANCE PHILOSOPHY**

At Nature Alliance, the safety and wellbeing of your children has always been at the heart of everything we do. As part of our ongoing commitment to being a Child Safe Organisation, we recently reviewed our Service Philosophy and realised that while child safety guides every decision we make, it wasn't clearly reflected in the words of our Philosophy.

We have now updated the opening paragraph to explicitly acknowledge every child's right to feel safe, secure and supported. While our practices haven't changed, our Philosophy now better reflects the values that have always guided us and our commitment to creating safe, nurturing environments where children can learn, grow and thrive. You can view our updated Philosophy by clicking [here](#).

### **CHILD PROTECTION AND ONLINE SAFETY – EMMY & FRIENDS:**

Emmy and Friends is an evidence-based program for children aged 0-10 years. The program uses age-appropriate activities, resources, lesson plans, scripts and videos to teach children and their adults about personal safety. The site provides resources for educators, parents and children. The children particularly like the short videos and songs that we have watched quite a few times now. <https://emmyandfriends.com.au/about-us/>

### **POLICY UPDATES**

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 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

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

- [Policy 1.6](#) – Child Protection
- [Policy 4](#) – Serious Incidents, Emergencies & Evacuation Policy
- [Policy 17](#) – Anti Bias, Equity & Inclusion Policy
- [Policy 22](#) – Fit and Proper Policy
- [Policy 26](#) – Monitoring, Support & Supervision of FDC Educators & Ed Assistants

### **BOOKED HOURS**

Your booked care hours are agreed upon when your enrolment is completed and help your Educator plan their day and meet Family Day Care requirements. We kindly ask families to stick to these agreed drop-off and pick-up times wherever possible. If you arrive earlier than your booked start time or collect your child later than the agreed finish time, additional fees may apply. If this becomes a regular occurrence, your Educator may ask you to update your booked hours to better reflect the care you require.

Likewise, if your Educator needs to close early or asks you to collect your child before your usual finish time for reasons unrelated to your child (for example, due to illness or a personal emergency), you will only be charged for the care that was able to be provided. Your Educator is required to adjust the booked hours for that day accordingly. Good communication between families and Educators helps ensure everyone is treated fairly. If your care needs change, please speak with your Educator so your enrolment can be updated to reflect your family's current requirements.

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## WHAT DOES THE WORKER RETENTION PAYMENT MEAN FOR FAMILY DAY CARE?

You may have recently seen announcements that the Australian Government has extended the Early Childhood Education and Care Worker Retention Payment and that Family Day Care has now been included. Like many in our sector, we were initially hopeful that this would provide long-overdue recognition and support for our incredible Educators. Unfortunately, the reality has been incredibly disappointing.

While Family Day Care has been *technically* included, the payment is only available to Educators who are employed by a service. The overwhelming majority of Family Day Care Educators are independent contractors, which is how the Family Day Care model has traditionally operated. This means that, despite the announcement, most Family Day Care Educators remain ineligible for the payment.

Our Educators work tirelessly to provide high-quality, flexible and nurturing care for children, often supporting families when no other childcare option can. They deserve to feel valued and recognised for the important role they play in their communities. Sadly, this announcement has left many feeling overlooked once again.

At a time when Family Day Care services across Australia are facing increasing pressures and Educators are leaving the sector, we believe it is more important than ever that government policies genuinely reflect the unique way Family Day Care operates. If families want to continue having real choice in childcare, then Family Day Care must be supported in a way that benefits the Educators who make that choice possible.

## CHILD BODY SAFETY

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

Talking to children about body safety can feel like a difficult conversation, but it is one of the most important gifts we can give them. Helping children understand that their body belongs to them, teaching them about safe and unsafe touch, and encouraging them to speak up if something doesn't feel right are all valuable life skills that can begin from a young age.

Kristi McVee is a former Child Abuse Detective with the Western Australia Police Force who has dedicated her career to educating families and professionals about child safety and protective behaviours. She has developed a range of practical, evidence-based resources to help make these conversations easier and more age appropriate.

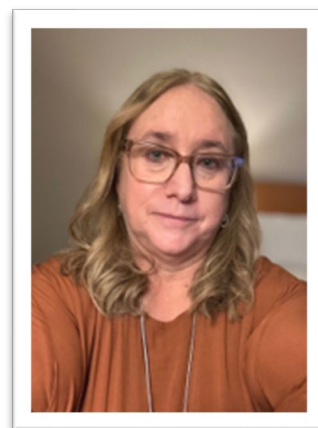


This month, your child's Family Day Care Educator will be receiving information about Kristi's *Conversations with Kids – Body Safety for Children Aged 1–4 Years* resource. If you would like to learn more about how body safety and protective behaviours can be introduced in an age-appropriate way, we encourage you to have a chat with your Educator. They will be happy to point you in the right direction and share the resources available.

You can also explore Kristi McVee's [website](#), which contains a range of practical information, resources and training for families. By having open, age-appropriate conversations at home and working together with your child's Educator, we can help children build confidence, develop protective behaviours, and know they can always turn to a trusted adult if something doesn't feel right.

## HI FROM BUSSELTON

This month our focus educator is Deaney Sayer. Deaney approaches her role as an educator with a genuine sense of love, respect, and attentiveness. Her care for the children is grounded in strong, trusting relationships where every child feels valued and heard. She consistently takes the time to understand each child's unique personality, interests, and needs, responding with empathy and intention. Through her calm and focused presence, Deaney creates an environment where children feel emotionally safe and confident to explore, make choices, and express themselves freely. Her interactions are gentle yet purposeful, showing deep respect for children's voices and capabilities. Deaney's thoughtful planning and mindful engagement reflect her commitment to nurturing not only the children's learning but also their sense of belonging and wellbeing. Her practice exemplifies what it means to lead with heart — fostering meaningful connections that support each child's growth, independence, and joy in learning.



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## 10 LESSONS I WANT TO INSTILL IN MY CHILDREN

We hope that you find these wise words from an [Instagram post](#) thought provoking. Remember you are the person your child looks up to, you are their mirror. This advise is simple, but when followed, it can make such a difference.

*If you made a mistake, apologize.*

*If you're thankful, show it.*

*If you're confused, ask questions.*

*If you learn something, teach others.*

*If you're stuck, ask for help.*

*If you're wrong, fess up.*

*If you love someone, tell them.*

*If you trip, get back up.*

*If someone needs help, help them.*

*If you see wrong, take a stance*

## MUD PLAY



Have you ever considered the benefits of mud play for your child? I know it can get super messy, but the benefits far outweigh the cleaning up. And whilst your child is deeply engaged, you can sit back and enjoy a break. Mud play helps children connect and interact with the natural world. It develops tactile skills, independent learning, problem solving, skills in construction, hand strength (ready for pre-writing), spatial awareness, role play and just great for their mental wellbeing. They don't need a large amount of area, just some sand and water and freedom to explore. You may like to pull some unused items from your kitchen cupboard and add them in to extend the learning. You may add some sticks, gumnuts, stones, shells based on your child's age and abilities. It doesn't have to be fancy or well

resourced, keep it simple and allow as much access as possible. You may end up joining in and reliving your childhood, those days of getting grubby and enjoying the outdoors.

## BOOKS TO SNUGGLE UP AND ENJOY ON A RAINY DAY

There's something special about curling up with a good book on a chilly winter's day. Whether it's under a cosy blanket, with a warm drink nearby, or snuggled together before bedtime, reading with your child creates moments of connection that they'll remember long after the story has ended. This month, we're sharing a collection of beautiful winter-themed books that celebrate the wonder of the season through nature, kindness, imagination and family. As you read together, take time to talk about the story, ask questions, and encourage your child to wonder, predict and share their own ideas. These simple conversations help build language, strengthen relationships and foster a lifelong love of reading.



We hope these stories inspire plenty of cosy reading moments with your little one this winter.

- [A Little Like Magic](#) (Sarah Kurpiel)
- [The Shortest Day](#) (Susan Cooper)
- [The Most Beautiful Winter](#) (Cristina Sitja Rubio)
- [Logan's Greenhouse](#) (JaNay Brown-Wood)
- [Winter's Gifts](#) (Kaitlin B. Curtice)

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### **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](#).

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

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