

MAY 2026

As the cool, crisp days of Makuru settle in, nature reminds us to slow down, seek warmth, and appreciate the importance of connection. Winter often brings a different rhythm to Family Day Care – more time indoors, more opportunities for meaningful conversations, a change to notice the small moments that make such a difference in children’s lives, and of course.....logs of splashy puddles to jump in! This month’s newsletter is filled with practical information, reflective practice ideas, and reminders to support both your business and your wellbeing. We explore how AEDC knowledge can be embedded into everyday practice and share resources around protective behaviours and neurodiversity. As always, we hope this edition leaves you feeling informed, supported and proud of the important role you play in the lives of children and families.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT - INCREASE OF EDUCATOR LEVY – 6TH JULY 2026

From 6 July 2026, our levy will be increasing slightly from \$1.75 to \$1.90. We understand that any increase can be felt, so we want to be transparent about why this change is necessary. As a service, we are committed to maintaining strong, regular support for our Educators, which includes extensive travel across regions—both by road and air. Like many, we are experiencing rising operational costs, alongside increased administrative and compliance requirements that require additional staff time to ensure we continue delivering a high-quality, responsive service.

In addition, Redpay will now be passing on bank fees to services, rather than these being paid by families, and this has also been factored into the adjustment. While we have worked hard to keep the increase as low as possible, these combined pressures have made a small rise necessary. This adjustment will help us sustain the level of support, connection, and oversight that underpins the strength of our Family Day Care community.

We encourage Educators to take this adjustment into account when reviewing and setting their fees for the new financial year.

WELCOME JESSY IN DUNSBOROUGH & WELCOME BACK JESS IN ORANA

Another Educator joins the Nature Alliance family! We would like to extend a big welcome to Jessy Rudland in Dunsborough. We are excited to have you join us and are eager to hear all about your adventures in the Family Day Care sector! We also welcome Jess Jovanovic in Orana back! Jess took a few years off and realized how much she missed Family Day Care and decided to open up again in a new space! We are excited to be working with you again Jess.

START THE CONVERSATION WITH YOUR FAMILIES

It’s coming up to that time of the year again! In order to minimise any CCS cancellations going into the new financial year, we suggest that you start reminding families that they need to confirm their 2024-25 family income for Child Care Subsidy (CCS) before 30 June 2026. If they got CCS in the 2024-25 financial year, they would need to confirm their family income now. If they don’t do this by 30 June, their CCS will stop and they will have to pay full fees for any child care used from 6 July 2026. Read more on the [Services Australia website](https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au).

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INCIDENT REPORTS ON HARMONY

Did you know that you can complete and submit incident and injury reports on Harmony? A few Educators have mentioned that they have noticed that the functionality is there and have been trying it out for us. It seems to work really well and makes signing of incident reports very easy, as all the parent has to do is enter their pin! Feedback has also included how much faster it is to complete these documents. Incident reports (no matter what the incident is) need to be submitted to the Service within 24 hours, and if Harmony can make this easier and faster for you then we encourage you to try it out. For more information on how to access and use it click [here](#).

BALANCE OF ALLOWABLE ABSENCES

By this time of the year, some families have used all or most of their [42 allowable absences](#) from childcare. Educators can check children's allowable absences within Harmony in the Children tile under CCS YTD abs column. Allowable absences will reset on 1 July 2026.

In the case that a family have exceeded their allowable absences they can provide prescribed [evidence](#) to us to still have CCS applied to their sessions of care.

POLICY UPDATES

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

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



It has become evident during recent visits and through conversations with Educators, that there has been a noticeable increase in children displaying behaviours that may be associated with ASD or ADHD.

The NSW Family Day Care Association *PD in Your Pocket* session in April, titled [Trauma and Neurodivergence Informed Practice in FDC](#), provided valuable insights into this area.

One key takeaway that strongly resonated was:
"Some children who have experienced trauma are likely being mistaken for children with ASD or ADHD."

As Educators supporting this current generation of children, who may present with a wide range of behaviours and needs, it is important that we continue to build our understanding and knowledge. This helps ensure we are responding appropriately and providing the best possible support for each child in our care.

If you have the opportunity to watch the recording, please let us know so it can be added towards your required 8 hours of Professional Development.

SPECIAL EVENTS IN JUNE

Next month you and your children may wish to participate in the following events and celebrations that take place in Australia and around the world. World Bicycle Day (3rd June), World Environment Day (5th June), World Ocean's Day (8th June), National Refugee Week (14th to 20th June), World Music Day (21st June), International Day of Yoga (21st June) and World Rainforest day (22nd June). So chat to your children, see what interests you and start researching! You can also click [here](#) for links to relevant websites.



STAYING HEALTHY RESOURCE

As we step into the season of Mukuru (June to July) and our days start to become nyittingny (cold), we begin to notice an increase in seasonal illnesses and contagious bugs.

Some of you may have already experienced one or two of these illnesses making their way through your home and/or service, so we've designed a poster to help remind children and families of the simple practices that help keep everyone healthy, because Ngalak djen koorliny (we walk together)!

To support Educators across our service, we have created two versions of the poster. One incorporates [Noongar language](#) and seasonal references in recognition of the fact that Nature Alliance is based on Noongar Country and the second is a [general version](#) without Aboriginal language. Please feel free to use the poster that best suits your service, community and learning environment.

EMMY AND FRIENDS

As we all know, the two most important things we can do to keep children safe, is to actively supervise and to empower them by teaching them Protective Behaviours! Emmy and Friends is an evidence-based Protective Behaviours 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/>



HI FROM GIDGEGANNUP



Eva has been with us since February this year and it has been wonderful getting to know her! She operates a beautiful service in the middle of the trees, and it is always so relaxing to visit her. Eva is passionate about fostering a connection between children and the environment and she is always encouraging them to explore nature. Eva was one of the lucky Educators to join Nature Alliance through the Capability Trial and it is wonderful to see that this trial was a contributing factor to getting her service up and running. Eva will be taking some time off to welcome a new baby into her family, and we are looking forward to working with her again when she returns from maternity leave. We wish you all the best with your birth Eva and can't wait to have some baby cuddles when you return.

BRINGING AEDC INTO EVERYDAY FAMILY DAY CARE - WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE IN PRACTICE?

Understanding the AEDC domains is an important first step, but the real magic happens when we intentionally embed this knowledge into our everyday practice. The good news is that in Family Day Care, Educators are often already doing many of these things naturally. AEDC data is not about adding more to your workload — it is about recognising opportunities within the moments that already happen throughout your day.

Supporting children's development can look like helping children work through frustration during play to build Emotional Maturity, encouraging turn-taking and cooperation to strengthen Social Competence, or creating opportunities for children to communicate their ideas and solve problems together to support Language and Cognitive Skills and Communication Skills and General Knowledge. Outdoor play, meal times, story experiences, routines, conversations, and everyday challenges all create opportunities to intentionally support children across the five AEDC domains.

The small moments matter. The conversations you have, the calm guidance you provide, the way you encourage curiosity, independence, persistence, and connection — these everyday interactions build strong foundations



for children’s learning, wellbeing, and future success. When we use AEDC data to guide reflective and intentional practice, we strengthen the incredible work Family Day Care Educators are already doing every day.

Reflect on:

- Which AEDC domains do you naturally support most strongly in your everyday practice?
- Are there opportunities within your daily routines to intentionally strengthen another area of development?
- How do your interactions, environments, and experiences help build children’s confidence, resilience, communication skills, and sense of belonging?

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

FOOD SAFETY TIP – MANAGING ALLERGENS



Managing food allergens is essential to keeping all children safe. Always check each child’s allergy information before preparing or serving food and ensure this is kept up to date. Avoid cross-contamination by using separate utensils, cutting boards, and preparation areas for allergen-free foods. Clean and sanitise surfaces thoroughly and supervise children during meals to prevent food sharing. Clear communication with families and consistent practices help reduce risks and support a safe eating environment for every child. Include allergy awareness and inclusive practices into your intentional teaching when curriculum planning.

SENSORY WALK

Make a sensory walk for the children to explore that can be moved around, used indoors & out.

Purchase some cheap, solid plastic chopping boards (they usually come in a pack of several different colours), and glue different textures to each board. I suggest using strong glue (Liquid nails or something that really grips) and see what you can find to create a texture path for the children to explore.

Perhaps you could involve the children and see what they could think of to create textures and they can help glue them to the boards.



WORD OF THE DAY

Scaffolding – within early childhood education, scaffolding refers to the support Educators provide to help children build knowledge, develop skills, and extend their learning beyond what they may currently be able to do independently. Rather than giving children answers or completing tasks for them, scaffolding involves offering the right amount of guidance, encouragement, questioning, modelling, or assistance to help children move forward in their learning. In Family Day Care, scaffolding can be seen in everyday moments — helping a child problem-solve during play, introducing new language during conversations, encouraging persistence when challenges arise, or gradually stepping back as confidence and competence develop. Effective scaffolding requires Educators to observe closely, understand where children are in their development, and respond intentionally to support growth. Over time, these small and thoughtful interactions build independence, confidence, resilience, and deeper learning outcomes for children. For some additional information on this, have a look at the Aussie Childcare Network’s article on [Scaffolding Children’s Learning](#).



WELLBEING SPOTLIGHT

As we move into the darker, colder winter months, it's a good reminder that our energy can naturally shift. Days feel shorter, routines can feel heavier, and sometimes everything just asks a little more of us.

This is a gentle prompt to be kind to yourself. Not every day needs to be big or busy, sometimes the most meaningful moments are the quiet ones, a calm connection with a child, a shared laugh, or simply being present in the rhythm of the day. Winter is a season for warmth in many different ways, not just in the environments we create for children, but also in how you care for ourselves as educators. You are doing enough, even on the days that feel slower or more challenging than others.

A small reminder to hold onto: "Steady hands, a calm heart, and a present mind are more than enough for today."



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

"Leave footprints of love and kindness wherever you go." – Anon

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