

Free Range Kids Newsletter

October 2014

From The Director

The end of the year is fast approaching and now is the time to start thinking about enrolments for next year and also Christmas Holidays.

If you are wishing to change your booked days for next year or are wanting extra days please put this in your re-enrolment form and we will try our best to accommodate your needs

As we know Christmas is one of the biggest family events of the year and a lot of people like to take holidays at this time. That is why we offer discounted fees at this time in order to make your holiday more affordable

If your child is absent during the dates 22/12/14 – 4/1/14 we will credit your account with the whole parent portion

If your child is absent during the dates 5/1/14 - 25/1/14 we will credit your account with half of the parent portion

This discount will only be applied to those families who have their account 1 week in advance and have given at least 2 weeks' notice in writing

If your account is not 1 week in advance please see me to arrange payments to bring your account up to date in order to take advantage of this fantastic deal

Holiday forms and re-enrolment forms went out last week Please return these forms by Friday 14th November

Thanks Mrs Smith

Crazy Camel Fundraising

We are doing an exciting new fundraiser

All proceeds go to our annual Christmas party

So if your stuck for Christmas gifts this year we may have the answer with this exciting range of products

You can find your order form and a description of products attached to the back of the newsletter

We have special paper here for your child to complete their artwork on



Please remember to send you child in a sun safe shirt and a sun safe hat every day.

Also on warmer days we do a lot of water play please make sure you send a spare set of clothes in your child's bag to ensure they have something dry to wear when they are finished

Nursery News

Another busy month has gone by. We have re-visited and explored animals due to the children's interest. As our group has become more active and wanting to try out their physical skills, we have been looking at learning experience relating to gross motor skills (large muscle skills) such as obstacle courses, tunnels ect.

The weather is warming up so we would like to remind you to apply sunscreen to your children as they arrive at the center. Sunscreen is located conveniently near the front gate for you to use, we re-apply sunscreen as needed during the day.

An exciting fundraiser is on its way. The photo or artwork calendar and other items will make great Christmas gifts. The money raised from this will go towards the children's Christmas party.

We would love to hear about what your children are interested in and what you'd like to see us learn about in the nursery please speak to me (Mrs Iso-Aho) as we love parent input

Mrs Iso Aho and Miss Godebye

Our chickens have gone on a little holiday to Mrs James's house we are saddened about their departure but due to the increased risk of snakes in this warmer weather we have decided to remove the chickens for a while.

Toddler News

Thank you to all the families who have brought in their family photo for our room display, All the children have been enjoying being able to identify themselves and their family on the wall. It is always a proud moment when they see their photo and point out their Mummies and their Daddies.

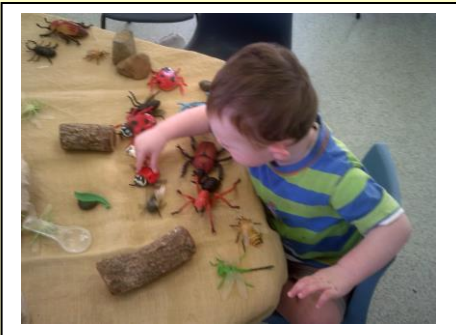
We would like to ask that you pack a few pairs of extra clothes due to toilet training and the weather warming up. The children have loved the water play activities we have been doing during the warmer days.

A big thank you to all the families that have donated books, dolls, rugs and toys to our room. The children are enjoying the new additions and the children are very grateful to you all for thinking of us.

Our focus on bugs over the past few weeks has really kept the interest of the children. Come in and check out our bug discovery table fitted with logs, rocks and magnifying glasses to learn and explore with.

If you can think of any other suggestions for activities that you think the children would be interested in or any helpful hints for our room, please do not hesitate to have a chat with us.

Until Next Time Miss Hopwood and Mrs James.



Preschool News

Preschoolers have had a wonderful month exploring all things that can be reduced, reused and recycled. We have explored the recycling symbols and have identified which items can be recycled and which are rubbish. We have made lots of things out of recycled materials such as robots, pizzas, bark boats, binoculars and heaps more. We have also started our veggie garden which is looking great so far and will be continued with more veggies added soon. The children are really excited to look after the veggie garden and water it every day.

Looking forward into this month we will be looking at a theme of me, my family and friends. Could all parents/Caregivers please provide a family picture so we can work on a family tree for all our Children.

Our last month or so we have had an increased number of toys and personal items brought into the center by children. While we are sure it is very exciting for them to show their friends it is also becoming a problem with sharing and with some items either being lost or potentially broken. We respectfully ask that all personal items please be left at home. Any personal items that do come into the center will be placed into the child's bag for the duration of the day.

We would also like to remind parents that all bags and sleep bags must be taken home with your child every day unless your child is coming back on the next consecutive day. Therefore if your child has a day off in-between their next visit please take your child's bags home as we do not have enough lockers to store all children's bags while they are not here.

If you have any concerns or questions or feedback for our room we welcome a chat anytime.

Mrs Jepson And Miss Brown



Australian Government
Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Information for families using child care: Absences from child care—Child Care Benefit (CCB) and Child Care Rebate (CCR)

There are times, like public holidays, when you will be charged for care even though your child was absent from care.

If the absences are your initial 42 absence days, additional absence days or approved under the exceptional circumstances provision, the Australian Government will still pay you CCB, CCR and if applicable Jobs, Education and Training Child Care fee assistance. This is for CCB approved child care including Family Day Care, In Home Care, Outside School Hours Care and Long Day Care. Absences are treated differently for Occasional Care.

What is an absence day?

You will get CCB and CCR for 42 absence days per child each financial year. These can be for any reason and will not require proof and include public holidays.

You cannot claim absences if your child has not started care or has stopped care. You also cannot claim an absence if you have notified your child care service you are taking your child out of care on a set date and then change your mind and remove your child earlier.

If your child is absent for one or more than one session of child care on the same day, such as both before and after school care, it is counted as one absence day.

If you receive CCB as a fee reduction at more than one child care service you must let each service know when your child has used your initial 42 absence days.

Why do I pay for child care on a public holiday?

Fee charging practices are commercial decisions made by child care service providers. Some child care service providers charge for public holidays because child care workers, like most employees, are entitled to be paid for public holidays when they would otherwise be at work.

The Government's primary role in child care is to assist families with the cost through Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate and is unable to intervene in fee charging decisions.

What is an additional absence day?

You can also get CCB and CCR for additional absence days once your initial 42 absence days have been used. There is no limit on these days but you may be required to provide documentation to support the absence.

The additional absence days reasons are:

- Illness (with a medical certificate), or another absence due to sickness of the child, a parent or sibling, supported by medical certificates
- non-immunisation
- rostered days off
- rotating shift work
- temporary closure of a school or pupil-free days
- period of local emergency – the service is closed or the child is unable to travel to the service
- shared care arrangements due to a court order, parenting plan or parenting order
- attendance at preschool
- exceptional circumstances

What is a parenting plan?

A parenting plan can take any form, but to be a parenting plan under the *Family Law Act 1975* it must be in writing, signed and dated by both parents. It must be made free from any threat, duress or coercion. When providing documentation for shared care arrangements, it is not sufficient to have a verbal agreement or a statutory declaration signed by just one parent, describing the arrangement.

Parenting plans are developed by both parents, sometimes with the help of the Family Relationship Centre. For examples and more information about parenting plans you can go to the [Family Relationships](#) website or call 1800 050 321.

What are exceptional circumstances?

You may also get CCB and CCR for up to 20 further absence days for your child to take a break from care. Exceptional circumstances are when you have used 31 or more of your initial 42 absence days for one or more of these reasons:

- an illness or illnesses (with a medical certificate)
- rotating shifts or rostered days off
- shared care arrangements due to a court order, parenting plan or parenting order.

You must provide supporting documentation to show that the 31 or more of the initial 42 absences were used for these specific absence reasons—for example, the supporting documentation for illness is a medical certificate. If your child has a medical certificate specifying a long-term illness, you do not need a separate medical certificate for each additional absence day.

