



Coastwide Child & Family Services Inc.  
**QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER for PARENTS**

## MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

Dear Parents,

*I welcome new and existing families to 2010 and the opportunities this year holds for us. I look forward to visiting and meeting your children as I drop in on our Carers' services. I wish all the children who have started on their 'big school' journey all the best and am sure they will be keen to visit with their old Carers to let them know how school life is. I know that it is always an emotional time when children leave care to go off to school but the ties that are made during a child's time in Family Day Care are strong, one that both families and Carers hold dear.*

Kellie McNamara, Manager CC&FS

### COAG NATIONAL QUALITY AGENDA for EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION and CARE

On 7 December 2009 all Australian governments agreed to make changes to early childhood education and care in Australia. These changes are part of the Australian Government's National Quality Standard Framework which includes a National Quality standard, quality ratings system and enhanced regulatory arrangements for the sector.

The new system will cover long day care, family day care, outside of school hours care services and preschools. It will encourage services to improve their facilities, programs and practices in the range of areas that impact on a child's development.

A new rating system will also mean families and carers will know more about the quality of care on offer so they can make informed choices about which service is best for their child.

It is expected that the implementation

of the National Quality Framework will occur in a step by step process to help families and services adjust to any changes.

Further information on the National Quality Agenda is available at [deewr.gov.au/earlychildhood](http://deewr.gov.au/earlychildhood).

(source: Child Care News 24 DEEWR)

### AGM

Coastwide Child & Family Services is managed by a Management Committee. Our Annual General Meeting was held in November where our Management Committee for 2010 was elected, Our Management Committee members for 2010 are:-

Julia Teale - Parent Representative

Pola Nadas - Parent Representative

Leonie Thomas - Community Rep.

Geoff Brazel - Community Rep.

Peri Jackson - Community Rep.

Gail Lombe - Carer Representative

Lisa Tyler - Carer Representative

If you would like to speak to any of the Committee members please contact the office.

January 2010

Coastwide Child & Family Services  
Sponsoring:

- \* Gosford Family Day Care
- \* Supported Playgroups Gosford
- \* Brighter Futures
- \* MyTime

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Enclosed with this Newsletter

- CCB 4 weekly Statement

## SAYING GOODBYE TO YOUR CHILD

The day you leave your little one in someone else's care is the child's first step on the long road to emotional self-sufficiency. Separation anxiety is common even in well-adjusted children and parents also can be victims.

Say good bye cheerfully and lovingly but never cling- however hard it is to let go.

Always give yourselves plenty of time in the mornings. A child who is rushed is liable to become cranky and insecure.

You should try to stick to a routine.

Always be friendly towards the carer to show your confidence in her and thus reassure the child. If you have a grievance, don't air it in front of your child as it could be misunderstood as disapproval or dislike of the carer.

Children handle separation in a variety of ways – not all of them satisfactory to sensitive parents.

Give a warm hug on parting tell your child to have a happy day and allow the carer to give a reassuring cuddle.

Once a child in care has settled in you may be left at the door without a backward glance. Be thankful rather than hurt, that your child has found a way to cope.

**EVEN AFTER THIS THERE WILL BE "OFF" DAYS.**

If your child was distressed when you left him/her, ring the carer when you get to work to make sure everything is alright. It usually is.

Be prepared to feel devastated at having left your child crying at the carer's front door. Don't give up – provided you show loving, understanding support, you will be surprised at how little time it takes for your child to settle in to their new environment.

## WEBSITE RESOURCE

Visit [mychild.gov.au](http://mychild.gov.au) for useful information about early childhood education and child care.

## CHILD CARE BENEFIT and CHILD CARE REBATE for FAMILIES

Child Care Benefit (CCB) is an income tested payment for parents, foster parents or grandparents who have a child in their care attending a child care service approved by, or registered with, the Australian Government.

If you are eligible for CCB (even if you don't receive an entitlement because you have a high income), you still may be eligible for the Child Care Rebate (CCR). There is no income test for CCR. Families do not need to make a separate claim for the CCR once in receipt of CCB.

To get CCR you must:

- Use approved child care
- Be eligible for CCB
- Pass the CCB work, training, study test.

Families who want to receive their CCR as a quarterly payment must claim CCB as reduced fees. Even if you don't receive a CCB entitlement you will still be eligible to receive your CCR as a quarterly payment.

You can choose to pay full fees throughout the financial year and get your CCB paid as a lump sum at the end of that financial year. However, this will mean any CCR will also be paid as a lump sum at the end of the financial year after you have claimed your CCB.

The Family Assistance Office can help you determine your eligibility for child care assistance and other payments. The FAO can be contacted on 136 150 for the cost of a local call or online at [familyassist.gov.au](http://familyassist.gov.au).

(source: Child Care News 24 DEEWR)

## CONTACTING THE CO-ORDINATION UNIT

Please feel free to contact the co-ordination unit on the above number to discuss any matters concerning your child's care and development. If you would like to pass on feedback

regarding any aspect of our service again, please phone us or alternatively email us.

You may also like to visit our website to update yourself on all our programs.

## ROLE OF COORDINATION UNIT STAFF

- Oversee each child's placement and monitoring their development whilst in care, by offering support to carers and families through regular carer home visits, interviews, telephone contact, newsletter/mailouts and training.
- Offer advice and resources on current child care practices.
- Monitor hygiene and safety of the care environment.
- Program and deliver playgroup sessions.
- Arrange outings and excursions for carers, children and families.
- Administer child care benefit and supervise payment to carers.

## BACK-UP CARE

Back-up care is available to all parents if your Carer has a need to temporarily close their service or if from time to time you require care in addition to your normal booked days. Please contact the office and our placement officer will endeavour to find temporary alternative care with one of our registered Carers.

## RELIEF CARERS

Gosford Family Day Care has a small number of Carers registered as Relief Carers. Carers may choose to use a Relief Carer to operate their service for short periods of time rather than having to temporarily close their service. Our relief Carers are trained child care professionals and are subject to the same regulatory procedures as all our Carers.

"quote of the day"

*"The world is as many times new as there are children in our lives"*

*Robert Brault*