

COASTWIDE CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES INC

PARENT NEWSLETTER

April/May 2008



Coastwide Child & Family Services
Sponsoring;
Gosford Family Day Care
Supported Playgroups Gosford
Brighter Futures
My Time
P.O. Box 4235 East Gosford 2250
Ph 4340 1111 Fax 4340 0888



EMAIL
admin@ccfdc.com.au
WEB SITE
www.ccfdc.com.au

Dear Parents,

I know it is said all the time, but how fast has the beginning of this year gone! Already half way through April, and our first school holidays is upon us.

I recently wrote to all parents regarding changes the Government has introduced on how we claim Child Care Benefit on your behalf, known as Child Care Management System (CCMS). You may have also already received or will shortly receive a letter from Family Assistance Office explaining the changes. Please take the time to read these letters, with further information available on the FaCSIA website www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/childcare/ccms.htm.

I hope you have all received invitations to our 25 years Celebration of Gosford Family Day Care. RSVP and payment is definitely needed before the night. Tickets will be issued, once payment has been made. We are all looking forward to a wonderful evening at Iguana Joes. Please support this night, it would be lovely to meet you. Past and Present staff, carers and families are all invited.

This month we had a lovely visit from The Hon. Ms Maxine McKew, the Parliamentary Secretary for the Office of Early Childhood Education & Care. Maxine met all the staff of Coastwide Child and Family Services. We discussed the positives of Family Day Care and the "red tape" that all Carers need to continually hurdle to compete against child care centres. Maxine also visited one of our Carers and was extremely impressed on what she saw. She spent nearly an hour at the office and at the Carers service. Gosford Family Day care was the first scheme Maxine had ever visited and therefore the first Carer she had ever visited. This is a fantastic privilege for our Scheme. I would like to thank Family Day Care Australia for offering this wonderful opportunity.

Just a quick note on attendance records. It is vital that you complete your child's attendance records accurately each time your child attends the service. An initial in the appropriate box on the attendance records is needed morning and afternoon with exact times. Not your booked hours. Your carer will show you where, if you wish to confirm the correct procedure. Also if any other of your children attend another approved child care service during the week please remember to note the number of children and initial the correct box. Please don't include your children that already attend any of Gosford Family Day Care Carer's. Unfortunately, any incorrect information prevents our service in paying your Carer with the Child Care Benefit that they receive which you are eligible for.

As part of our commitment to achieving the highest level, and Quality Assurance compliance, from time to time we randomly send surveys to parents. Thankyou to those parents who returned their surveys, the responses were wonderful. We also take onboard your comments & suggestions, and would really appreciate if all parents can send the surveys back as soon as possible.

Regards,

Kellie McNamara

Enclosed with this newsletter—

- Quarterly Parent usage statement
- Observations / Checklists

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 the well adjusted children and parents also can be victims.

Say goodbye cheerfully and lovingly but never cling—however hard it is to let go.

Always give yourself 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 leave taking 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 has settled in you may be left at the door without a backwards 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 your 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 Carers 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.