

# COASTWIDE CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES INC

## PARENT NEWSLETTER

### July/August 2008



Coastwide Child & Family Services  
Sponsoring;  
Gosford Family Day Care  
Supported Playgroups Gosford  
Brighter Futures  
My Time  
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Dear Parents,

#### PLAYDAYS SUCCESS

Our 25th Anniversary celebrations were a success with your children thoroughly enjoying themselves at Playdays Kincumber. Since then we have received many compliments of the **quality of care & professionalism our Carers displayed** which was very pleasing to hear from our end & I am sure pleasing for you as well.

Thank you for your support with this exciting event. Hoping for another 25 positive years.

#### QUALITY ASSURANCE

During October 2008, Gosford Family Day Care is required to complete our 'Self-study'.

**SELF-STUDY** is the process through which schemes reflect on and evaluate their child care practices, policies and activities. The most important part of self-study involves questioning the effectiveness and quality of a scheme's current practices. In order for self-study to be beneficial it should involve all stakeholders, including management, staff, carers, families and, where relevant, school age children.

Accredited Family Day Care schemes are required to submit a self-study report to National Childcare Accreditation Council (NCAC) every 2½ years.

**FDCQA QUALITY PRACTICES GUIDE** is the main tool for schemes. It outlines the 6 Quality Areas that are described by 30 Principles that underpin quality in Family Day Care.

Each carer/service has a Quality Practices Guide available for parents to view, and help give supportive information/ideas to their carer/scheme.

FDCQA Validation will be completed in a few short months after the 'Self-study' report is completed. A validator will make an unannounced visit to the scheme and to a number of carers over several days. The scheme and carers are unaware of which carers will be selected. All carers with Gosford Family Day Care have many indicators to comply with and they are certainly doing a wonderful job.

The FDCQA Website is [www.ncac.gov.au](http://www.ncac.gov.au).

#### SURVEYS

A parent survey is enclosed for your feedback. Please return ASAP. The scheme is very appreciative of any feedback you have of your service.

During the next few months a Quality Assurance (QA) survey will need to be completed by all stakeholders—carers/staff/families. A certain percentage of surveys is required to be completed by all families. Your carers will be asking you to complete this as part of our QA requirements.

## TRAINING

Gosford Family Day Care are very proud of the training commitments completed by the carers and staff.

Twenty four of our carers have been completing a large portion of their Certificate III in Children's Services through TAFE and in the near future will be completing the remaining modules. All carers were assessed by TAFE staff and successfully completed their requirements.

Carers with Family Day Care are required to undertake ongoing training throughout the year. This training can be completed through a variety of options; internally (FDC), other children's services, community colleges, schools, conferences etc.

Training for July to December has been planned, each carer has a copy of a FDC Training calendar. If you are interested in any training offered by the scheme, please do not hesitate to contact the co-ordination unit.

## PLAYGROUP NSW

Staff have been invited to attend a number of Playgroup NSW playgroups within the Gosford Local Government area. This has been a wonderful promotional tool for Coastwide Child & Family Services to promote the services available to families and children.

The playgroups have been very welcoming and it is wonderful to see parents/carers awareness of Family Day Care growing as a high quality childcare or career option.

## ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE PLAN

Carers will soon be issued with Arrival/Departure Plans for parents to read and sign.

Any questions or concerns please contact the co-ordination unit.

## FACTSHEETS

With this newsletter I have enclosed 2 fact sheets from the Office of Early Childhood Education & Child Care, I ask that you take the time to read these as we recently received a spot compliance check from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. During this visit it was brought to our attention that under Section 10 of the 'A New Tax System' (Family Assistance) Act 1999 absences cannot be claimed for CCB purposes before a child commences care & once a child has ceased receiving care. **This means that once a family has given notice for their child to stop using care Child Care Benefit cannot be paid for any absences & full fees will be applicable.** Please be aware of your responsibilities when receiving Child Care Benefit.

## CHILD CARE BENEFIT

By now you should have received your notice from Families Assistance Office advising of your child care percentage rate for the coming financial year. **This rate is determined solely by the Families Assistance Office.** Gosford Family Day Care or our Carers have no input in determining your CCB percentage. If you have any issues with your new rate please contact the FAO on 136150.

## SUPPORT FOR PARENTS

- The **NSW Parent Line** operates to offer support from professional counsellors and now this service is operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Contact the Parent Line on 13 20 55.
- **Families NSW** has a new website which gives advice to help with raising children & links to local support services. Visit the website at [www.families.nsw.gov.au](http://www.families.nsw.gov.au).
- Many worthwhile **Downloadable Resources** for positive parenting & keeping children safe are available from the following websites:-

Kidsafe	<a href="http://www.kidsafensw.org">www.kidsafensw.org</a>
SIDS & Kids	<a href="http://www.sidsandkids.org/nsw/index.html">www.sidsandkids.org/nsw/index.html</a>
Raising Children Network	<a href="http://www.raisingchildren.net.au">www.raisingchildren.net.au</a>

Regards,

*Kellie McNamara*

**Enclosed with this newsletter—**

- Quarterly Parent usage statement
- Office of Early Childhood Education & Child Care Child Care Benefit Fact Sheets 8 & 9
- Parent Survey
- Is My Child Ready for School?

## **Rotavirus Immunisation - Information for Parents and Guardians**

### **Who is eligible to receive free rotavirus vaccine?**

Rotavirus immunisation was included on the National Immunisation Program (NIP) from 1 July 2007. The NIP will provide free rotavirus vaccine to all children born on or after 1 May 2007.

### **What is rotavirus and how serious is it?**

Rotavirus is the most common cause of severe gastroenteritis in infants and young children in Australia.

The severity of the illness ranges from mild, watery diarrhoea of limited duration to severe, dehydrating diarrhoea with vomiting, fever, and shock. Rotavirus infections are often more severe than other causes of diarrhoea, are more likely to be associated with dehydration and are more likely to require treatment in hospital.

In Australia, it is estimated that there are approximately 10,000 hospitalisations due to rotavirus in children less than 5 years of age each year. In addition to hospitalised children, an estimated 115,000 children under 5 years of age visit a GP, and 22,000 children require an emergency department visit. On average, there is one death due to rotavirus each year in Australia.

Confirmation of rotavirus infection can only be made by laboratory testing of faecal specimens.

#### **Further reading can be found at:-**

[www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/rotavirus-parents](http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/rotavirus-parents)