

COASTWIDE CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES INC

PARENT NEWSLETTER

October/November 2008



Coastwide Child & Family Services
Sponsoring;
Gosford Family Day Care
Supported Playgroups Gosford
Brighter Futures
MyTime
P.O. Box 4235 East Gosford 2250
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Dear Parents,

2008 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 20th November, 2008. I have enclosed with this newsletter an invitation outlining the details. We are currently looking for representatives to sit on our Management Committee. Nomination Forms for Committee positions are also enclosed & are required to be lodged 7 days prior to the meeting. If you wish to nominate a proxy for voting purposes, forms are available from the office .

CERTIFICATE III

I am pleased to announce that 20 of our Carers are currently undertaking their Certificate III in Children's Services through TAFE, after successfully completing introductory modules through the WELL program. I know that you join me in wishing these carers every success in their studies & in their continuation to provide quality child care to your children.

SUPPORTED PLAYGROUP / MY TIME

We currently provide Supported Playgroups and My Time groups at 11 venues across the Gosford LGA. Two of these playgroups are specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander families and My Time groups are provided at two locations for parents with children with a disability or chronic medical condition. The playgroups are extremely popular catering for children 0 - 5 years and their parents. The playgroup facilitators provide creative craft and ideas for children's play as well as supporting families to gain access to other services within their community and create networks with other parents in their local area.

RELIEF CARER

We now have the services of Relief Carers. This service provides a continuity of care for your children with the Relief Carer providing care within the absent Carer's service. All Relief Carers are registered with our Scheme and have undergone training and had experience in Family Day Care. Your Carer may offer your child to be looked after by a Relief Carer, however, you must feel comfortable with using this service and you have the option to say no. Back up care or other arrangements may then be made to suit your needs.

260 KIDS DAY OUT

Coastwide Child & Family Services will have representatives at this great annual event. Come and say hello, Sunday 2nd November 2008, 10am to 3:30pm held at Ourimbah Campus of Newcastle University. Entry by \$2 gold coin donation.

Regards,

Kellie McNamara

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

CC&FS is managed by a management Committee.

This committee comprises community representatives, parent representatives and carer representatives.

Anyone interested in participating at this level please contact Kellie McNamara.

Our AGM is held in November each year. All parents are invited and welcome to attend.

Parents can contact the parent representatives by contacting the Co-ordination Unit on 4340 1111 or email: manager@ccfdc.com.au.

Your information will be given to the parent representatives for them to contact you.



Responsibilities of Management Committee Representatives

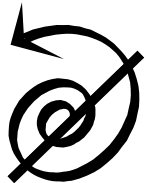
- Attend Management Committee meetings and accept management responsibilities as required
- Have/develop a clear understanding of Federal and State Regulations and all Policies and Procedures pertaining to the service
- Represent the Organisation as a whole being mindful of families using the service
- Represent the Organisation and create and promote awareness of our sponsored programmes as valued services within our community

The Carer Representatives may be required to:

- Represent individual Carers, with documentation, at committee meetings
- Act as a support person for fellow Carers in time of need and refer this need on to Staff
- Meet and welcome new Carers and support them during their early days as a Carer
- Assist Carers with out of hours emergencies as per the Emergency policy

The Parent Representatives may be required to:

- Represent individual Parents at Committee meetings
- Act as a liaison between other Parents and the Service if required



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Following the success of our 25th Birthday celebrations at this venue, this years Christmas party will be held at Playdays at Kincumber

Thursday 11th December 2008
9:30 to 1pm

*Looking forward to you celebrating this special time of year with us.
RSVP's are appreciated*



Enclosed with this newsletter —

- Quarterly Parent usage statement
- Child Observations
- AGM Invitation
- AGM Nominations Form
- Application for Membership CC&FS

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*The following is an excerpt from the
All Communication Matter Speech Pathology September 2008 Newsletter*

Imitation of Words

Children learn their first words by initially learning to imitate speech sounds that they hear. Once they are consistently imitating speech sounds, you can begin to model words for them to copy. A child typically says their first words around 12 months of age.

Here are some tips to help:

- Get down to their eye level and make sure they can see your face
- Make sure your child is looking at you and not something else
- Start by modelling the words for things your child wants, i.e. 'drink'
- Say the word at least 3 times and show your child the object
- If your child doesn't say anything after 3 attempts, give your child the object
- Only focus on a few words at a time and repeat these a lot
- Let your child have enough time to respond and reward attempts even if they are not perfect