



The Community Child Care Centre at FMC

# Newsletter

Winter 2018

***Winter is here and although the rain and chill dampen the enthusiasm of most adults, the effect it has on children is often quite the opposite.***

It is this intrinsic love of the outdoors and the endless possibilities associated with climbing, running and jumping that afford children the experience to take risks and form judgments from the success or failure of such activities. When a child contemplates climbing a tree or jumping from one log to another, he/she is confronted with a myriad of choices involving information gained from the trial and error of similar activities performed in the past. Over time, this builds a sense of physical confidence for the future. Often, the weather is of little concern.

Risk-assessment and problem solving are vital in the healthy development in childhood that has implications for an individual's entire life. Everything in a child's life is connected.

Too often, early childhood settings are sanitized to avoid any perceived danger or possible harm that may/ may not befall a child whilst in care.

Even the simple joy of jumping in/over puddles is often discouraged by adults; concerned more about minimizing risk or staying clean/dry than considering the thrill it brings in a child's life.

Risk-aversion although often founded on good intentions, denies children the life experience to acquire new skills and the stored information required to assess risk throughout their life.

The thrill that comes with physical achievement, no matter how slight, is a rich and rewarding experience and many children in today's overly cautious society are in jeopardy of missing out.

This article from 'The Age' (19/05/2018) may be of interest:

<https://www.theage.com.au/lifestyle/health-and-wellness/cotton-wool-club-are-we-right-to-remove-risk-from-playgrounds-20180514-p4zf7y.html>

A child's wellbeing and social growth is affected by experiences both within the child care centre and by those experiences at home and the greater world in which they live.

The child care centre's role is to provide a stimulating yet predictable atmosphere where children develop a sense of identity and resilience in order to deal with the stresses of everyday life and help build the capacity to deal with challenging social scenarios and unfamiliar situations.

This 'emotional resilience' allows a child the confidence and optimism to maximize his/her learning potential and utilize the innate exploratory drive and growing desire to interact with others.

The curriculum model that we follow: *Being, Belonging & Becoming* is based on the notion that children grow and encounter different events and circumstances and experience significant change in what/how they learn about themselves, their relationships and their world.

The objectives of this curriculum model can be summarized by examining the 'Learning Outcomes' that children acquire along the way.

***These learning outcomes are:***

- 1. Children have a strong sense of identity***
- 2. Children are connected with and contribute to their world***
- 3. Children have a strong sense of wellbeing***
- 4. Children are confident and involved learners***
- 5. Children are effective communicators***

By understanding the complex physical/emotional/social needs of individual children within the context of each particular age-group and personal experience, we are able to design and implement a programme that is engaging yet nurturing and promotes the development of friendships and positive communication. These are the life-skills that enable children to make the transition to school with the confidence and social ability required to make new friends and enjoy lifelong learning.

## IT Services

It was hoped that by now we would be announcing a new email address. It is remarkably difficult to source reliable coverage to our 'nestled' location here at FMC. As we are obliged to find an alternative IT source from FMC and there is no NBN or separate telecommunications wiring to the actual centre, it is proving a difficult conundrum to solve. We are negotiating a solution with Uniti Wireless Inc. that looks promising, so hopefully a positive outcome can be announced soon.

## Federal Government Child Care Subsidy

From 2 July 2018, child care fee assistance is changing. Child Care Subsidy (CCS) will replace the current child care payments (CCR/CCB).

If you currently get a child care payment for child care, you need to complete a Child Care Subsidy assessment with Centrelink in order to qualify for the new subsidy.

### You will need to provide:

- \*an estimate of your family income for 2018-19
- \*you and your partner's activity level
- \*school level of your child
- \*confirmation of your child's enrolment details

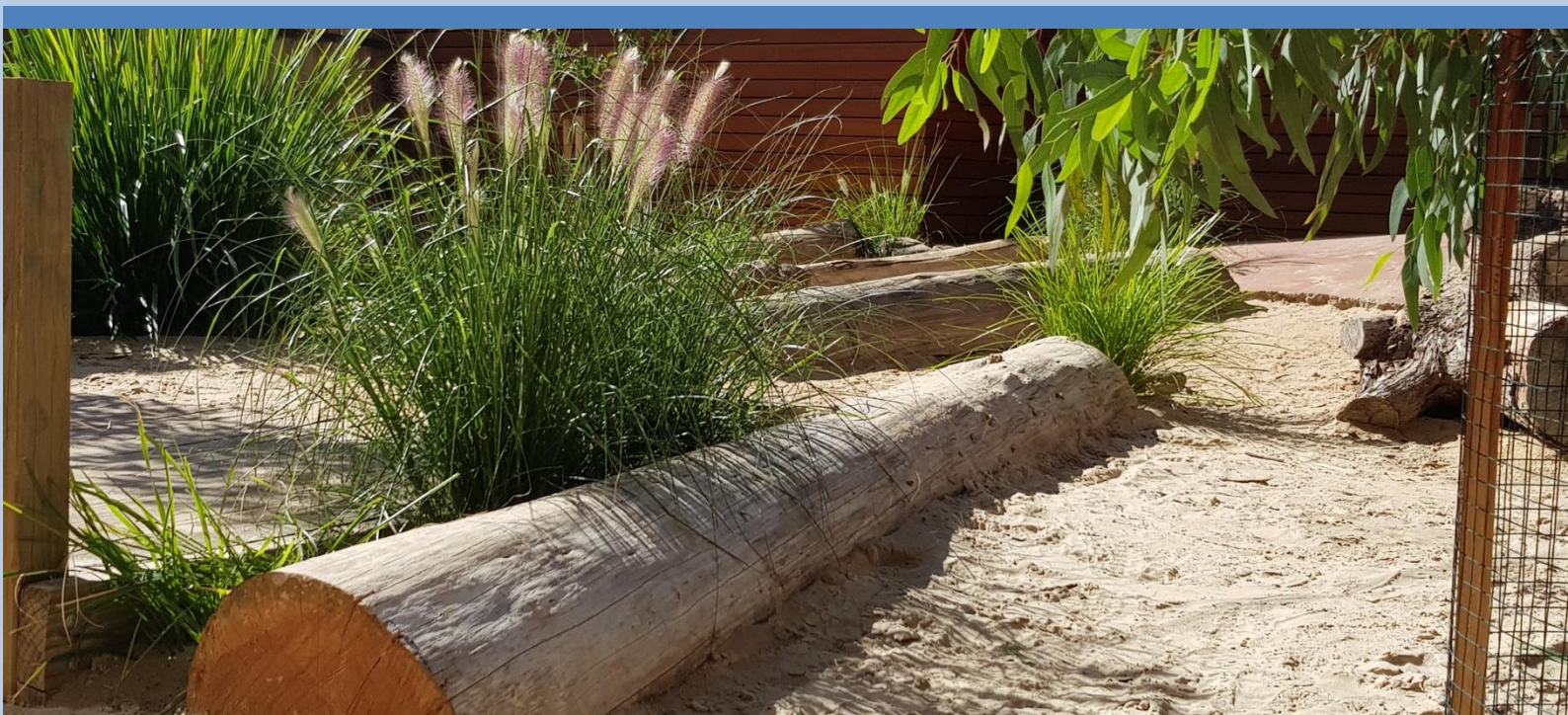
You may also need to provide more details, such as:

- \*your and your partner's Tax File Number (TFN)
- \*other evidence as require

Important notes/ changes;

- CCS amounts will only be paid to us, not to yourselves as was an option previously
- Payments will not be backdated further than 28 days so you need to get the application done PRIOR to July
- The government will now only withhold 5% CCS until the end of financial year
- All bookings will be shown as 'casual' in your enrolment when viewed online, this is simply to allow flexibility and this does not change your existing permanent enrolment with us.

<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/subjects/assistance-child-care-fees#newccca>



## Winter Health

The centre Health Policy is designed to ensure that every child's best interests are served at all times. This often involves exclusion from the Centre until a child is well enough to return, which can make life extremely difficult for some families.

We sincerely apologise for the pressure this places on parents, particularly if paid leave is not available or employers are unsympathetic.

The Health Policy is based on recommendations from the Federal Govt. Department of Health, which clearly defines each childhood illness and how best they can be controlled.

We have copies of these guidelines for perusal. If you have any concerns or queries regarding the health policy please contact the office.

It is also a good time for considering what to pack into children's bags. Warm outer clothing that is easy for children to remove themselves and appropriate footwear that is both protective and flexible enough for active play is essential at this time of year. Spare socks and pants are often required as the outdoor environment is damp and children sometimes need a dry alternative by mid-morning.

Children can be very active and will overheat if dressed in too many layers and some clothing restricts movement which may not encourage participation in active play.

Don't forget to check our website for updates! New photos are added monthly to the gallery and kindy updates pages.

Website Passwords are available from staff.

**Please take the time to stop in to the office or contact Julianne or myself any time to discuss any aspect of our service at all. Every family has different needs just as every child has different needs. We will always do our utmost to ensure that you and your child/ren are treated as individuals and that if we can improve what we do, we will.**

Thank you,

Martin

