



Gosford Children's Services

Term 4 2018

Schools Back For Term 4!!

Welcome to all our new and returning families! We hope you had fun, safe holidays and are ready to take on Term 4 2018!! Educators at Gosford remain the same for Term 4, Emma Holten is our Nominated Supervisor, Debra Bowen is our Certified Supervisor and Educational Leader and Tahni Wilson is also a Certified Supervisor (NQF 7.1.3). There have been some changes to staffing across the organisation and as a result Emma will be doing a few shifts a week at our Point Clare Service. While she is at Point Clare, Deb will be the Responsible Person in Charge.

Also, in the lead up to our biggest holidays and busy time of year we have a few staff taking annual leave and recharging with some rest and relaxation. During this time there will be a few changes with casuals filling in at Gosford. There will always be a Certified Supervisor on site for consultation about accounts, child development discussions and concerns. All our educators meet the Children's Service Qualification requirements set out in the regulations as well as First Aid, Asthma, Anaphylaxis, and Risk Of Harm Training.

Vacation Care

We had really smooth Vacation Care over the September/October school holidays with a large number of children booked in each day and even a couple of booked out days. As a result of our high numbers and the change to child:ratio regulations our organisation has employed several new casual educators to meet our growing needs (NQF 4.1.1).

Gosford's most popular days were Tuesday 9th September when we took 87 children to Timezone at Tuggerah. We are noticing that Tuesday's are our biggest days of each holidays and they tend to book out quickly. If you know you need Tuesday during the upcoming holiday period please book early to avoid disappointment.

We are in the beginning stages of planning our next Vacation Care and we are always looking for something new and exciting to provide for the children. If you have suggestions for excursions or venues that you think your children would love please let us know. Our Vacation Care opening hours are 7am to 6:30pm. Late fees will apply to anyone picked up after 6:30pm in accordance with our centre policies.

2019 Enrolments

All children attending from January 2019 will require a new Enrolment Form. All enrolments for 2019 will be done electronically online through Qik Enrol. All families will need to complete the online enrolment and submit this, which will go directly to the Service to confirm. Then the Service will provide the family with a letter of offer outlining the fees and days we can cater for you. Once the family accepts this letter of offer, then your children will be formally booked into care. This system should be up and running by early November and we will provide families with more details once Qik Enrol is in place.

This form will cover all attendances in 2019 and you will only be required to complete a booking form for following holidays.

Once online Enrolment Forms have been completed and booking forms submitted staff will be able to provide a quote for the requested days. Vacation Care fees as well as any outstanding term four fees must be paid prior to any attendance.

Service Closure Dates

Over the Christmas period many of our services will be closed briefly. Please see below for details:

Gosford and Woy Woy Children's Services last day 21st December 2018, reopening 7th January 2019

Point Clare Children's Services last day 19th December 2018, reopening 29th January 2019

Peninsula Occasional Care: last day 21st December 2018, reopening 14th January 2019

Playgroup: last day Tuesday 11th December 2018 reopening Tuesday 5th February 2019

Kindy Gym: last day Friday 14th December 2018 reopening Friday 8th January 2019

Kids Day Out

2018 Central Coast Kids Day Out is on again!! The event will be held on Sunday 4th November at Narara Valley High School from 10am to 3pm. Central Coast Kids Day Out is all about our Central Coast kids, their families, the services and ways to enrich our families lives on the Central Coast. Continually families are saying that this is the best family event on the Central Coast. This is CCKDO's 19th year! Through the provision of information, and enhancement of interagency links, CC Kids Day Out is an annual event, designed to strengthen and develop functional family units and promote the long-term wellbeing of children on the Central Coast.

Once again Coast Community Connections will have a stall at the event. We will have brochures and information on services we provide that are available all across the coast. We will also have experiences, games and craft for the children. Our Children's Services staffs are running the stall all day so come along and say hello!

Appessment

We're continuing to work with Appessment to document all the children's learning. If you haven't verified your account and can't find the email notification please let a staff member know and we can re-send the invitation code to your preferred email address. Once you have verified yourself, every time we publish a story that involves your child you will receive an email notification. You have the opportunity to view the story and photos and leave comments for the educators and other parents to see.

Appessment is now available as an app that can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play, check it out and let us know what you think.

Accounts

Please ensure your accounts are two weeks in advance at all times. Also keep in mind that casual bookings must be paid on the day of attendance. If you have any money owing on your account you will be unable to book in any extra days until the amount owing has been paid.

A reminder that there is a \$10 term fee applied to accounts each term and we have a \$2 per child non-notification fee for attendances or absences that have not been communicated to staff prior to the session.

Healthy Eating

As you may have noticed on our menu of late, we've been working towards a healthier menu for the children. A lot of the changes have involved providing healthier alternatives such as wholemeal instead of white bread and low sugar/low fat options for foods such as jelly, milk and cheese.

We've also added more choices to our breakfast menu. The children have especially enjoyed the raisin toast and the yoghurt and muesli.

If you have any breakfast or afternoon tea suggestions that we can incorporate into our menu please write down the recipe and bring it in.

Sun Safety and Health

As we approach summer, this term we are focusing on getting all the children to learn about sun safety and take increasing responsibility for their physical wellbeing. We will be going through the proper way to apply sun screen with the children and taking about the dangers of sunburn to their health.

Ratio Changes

Due to regulations that came into effect on the 15th of October 2017 we cannot exceed our ratio of one Educator to fifteen children. This means if you book your child/ren in casually we may be unable to take your booking if we have reached the maximum number based on the staff rostered on. We have casual educators on call with differing availabilities but we share these across our five Children's Services.

We're doing our best to ensure your care isn't interrupted, we ask that you do your best to notify us by 6pm the night before. That way we can try and find an extra educator, if required. At times we may need to place your child on a waiting list and you will be notified of the outcome by 6pm the night before for a morning shift and 9am for a afternoon shift. If your child turns up without notice and we have reached our capacity they will be sent up to the school office. If we are spot checked by the Department of Education and are caught breaching these ratios we will face substantial fines and possibilities of an investigation.

Fee Increase

As a reminder for families we have had a fee increase effective Monday 15th October. Our Before and After School care fee has increased by \$2 and our Vacation Care fee has increased by \$5. The cost for Before School care is now \$18 per session, After School Care is \$26 per session and Vacation Care is \$70 per session. These fees are all still eligible to be reduced by to your Child Care Subsidy entitlements.