

2025

August Newsletter

**During Term, families can
park in the school:**
Before 8am and After
4:30pm

We ask that families do not
park in the Principal or Vice
Principle spaces.

**Other parking options
include:**
On Gilham Street | At Castle
Towers

School Carpark Reminder

Before School Care:

7:00am-9:00am

After School Care:

3:00pm-6:30pm

Vacation Care:

7:00am-6:30pm

School Development Days:

7:00am-6:30pm

We are closed during:
National Public Holidays

Our Next Committee Meeting

Our next meeting will be on the
22nd September at 7:00pm

As a non-for-profit organisation, Castle Hill Funhouse has a Management Committee comprised of families who currently use our service. The Committee decides on matters of policy and meets once a month to make other major decisions about Castle Hill Funhouse.

If you would like to get involved, please contact
Management via email:
management@castlehillfunhouse.com.au



What's to come in Community Events

Sus Club Focus

WHS Focus

RAP

SEPTEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Week 7	Emotional & Mental Wellbeing	Waste Reduction and Recycling	Fiji - Week 2			
1 	2 Indigenous Literacy Day Wattle Day	3  Flag Day	4 Focus: Cultural Education and Awareness	5	6	
Week 8	Slip Slop Slap	Threatened Species	Holland - Week 1			
7  Father's Day	8 Focus: Country and environment	9	10 R U OK? Day	11	12	13
Week 9	Physical Wellbeing	Biodiversity Month	Holland - Week 2			
14  National Bilby Day (include Australian animals)	15 	16	17 Focus: Animals native to Australia	18	19	20
Week 10	End Of Term Disco Party					
21  International Day of Peace	22 World Car-Free Day 	23	24 World Gorilla Day 	25	26 	



A message from our Director

Nicky Mc Nab



Parent Communication – Child Safe Standards Update

From 1 September 2025, all childcare services across NSW are required to meet the updated Child Safe Standards, which strengthen expectations around protecting and empowering children in our care. While these regulations are now mandatory, we want to reassure you that Funhouse has already embedded many of these practices into our policies and daily operations well before this date.

Key areas of focus include:

- 24-hour reporting period – Any child safety concern or incident must now be reported to the relevant authorities within 24 hours. This ensures swift action and accountability.
- Enhanced child safety training – All educators are receiving additional training to strengthen their knowledge and confidence in recognising, responding to, and preventing risks to children.
- No vaping at the service – To support the health and wellbeing of every child, vaping is strictly prohibited on our premises, aligning with our existing no-smoking policy.
- Mobile phone use – Personal mobile phones are not to be used by staff during program hours, ensuring full attention and professional boundaries are maintained at all times.

These measures, along with our ongoing commitment to listening to children's voices, building a culture of respect, and engaging families as partners, mean that Funhouse continues to go beyond compliance to create a safe, inclusive, and trusted environment for all children.

Thank you for your support in helping us maintain the highest standards of care and safety.





Vacation care notice!!

Dear Families,

We are thrilled to announce a new and improved Vacation Care experience starting with our October program this year! After gathering feedback from families, children, and staff, we've taken the time to design a program that gives our families exactly what they need – more variety, more fun, and more choice.

Introducing our new program design.
Each day of Vacation Care will now be programmed as either:

Stay & Play – \$95 per day

A full day of engaging workshops and exciting experiences right here at the service. We're bringing the fun to you, with special guests and vendors visiting throughout the day to keep children busy, learning, and entertained – all while enjoying breakfast, afternoon tea, and a late snack.

OR

Adventure & Play – \$115 per day

An adventure-filled excursion day, taking children out and about for new experiences and plenty of fun, with breakfast, afternoon tea, and a late snack included.

This exciting change comes directly from the feedback you've shared with us, and we are confident it will create richer and more exciting experiences for your children these school holidays.

The full October Vacation Care program will be released later this week, so keep an eye out for all the details and book in early – places will fill quickly! As always, we want to remind families that we are a not-for-profit organisation, and any fee changes are never made lightly. We remain committed to providing affordable care while considering the rising costs of living, transport, and staffing – ensuring we can continue to offer safe, high-quality programs that children love.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping us shape our programs into something truly special.

We can't wait for October – it's going to be our best program yet!

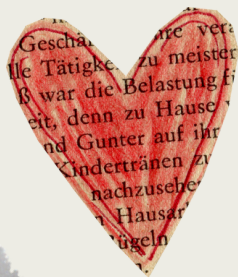


A Message from our ISP Team

Hi Families! I hope everyone has been well and healthy!

The Zen Den has been refreshed and reorganised. The quiet sensory activities that were in the playroom into the Zen Den where it'll be used more. With a new term, a new weekly activity rotation was created and I included a Educator-led book reading session on Mondays to hopefully engage children in learning about emotions and self-regulation.

I'll be having a zoom meeting with Zoe on the 2nd September to process a Change of Circumstance for our upcoming October Vacation care. With the unexpected high numbers last vac care, I'm hoping the anticipated higher numbers for this round will justify at least 2 additional educators each day. This will be helpful as our main struggles last vac care were heightened behaviours.



In regards to concerning behaviour, we have seen a sharp increase of challenging and argumentative behaviour from our Focus Children. We would really appreciate it if all families have continual and reflective conversations with their children about how to play safely and the importance of listening to the educators as all we're trying to do is help them have fun in a safe way.

The goal for the remainder of the month is to audit all the ISP documents, including RMPs, ISP notes, behaviour logs and funding approval letters and Strategic Inclusion Plans.



Whitney Ng -
Inclusion Support
Manager



Jack Smales -
Inclusion Support
Assistant



Re – Enrolments for 2026 have now opened!!!!

Please complete the steps below to secure your spot for next year!!!

All steps must be completed.



1) Complete our Xplor Re-enrolment form - this form will come via email to the Primary career listed on your child's file directly from Xplor and each child will have their own link.

****** Please ensure you upload all requested documents including updated photos and that you are reading over the form carefully, making the needed changes as a lot of information comes prefilled. There have also been a few updates/changes to authorisations and consents in line with regulation updates.

Please note the link will expire after 14 days -you can request a new link by emailing me: info@castlehillfunhouse.com.au



2) Complete our 2026 Booking Form, Children's Terms & Conditions 2026 Form and our new WhatsApp Community Form- please complete this for each child via the link:
<https://form.jotform.com/252219113953050>

Once the above steps have been completed and received, we will be able to process your Re-Enrolment for 2026.

There is a non-refundable \$50 Membership fee per child for 2026 which will be charged to your account once your Re-Enrolment has been completed and processed.

Re-enrolments will close on the 30th of September 2025





Re – Enrolments for 2026 have now opened!!!!

Please let me know if you will not be re-enrolling for next year so I can mark you off and Year 6 children – you will do not need to action anything as I will close your enrolment at the end of the year.

Very Important – please note bookings WILL NOT roll over to 2026 – Re-enrolment must be completed to have bookings in 2026

What is our WhatsApp Form for:

This is our new Funhouse Community group that we have created where only active (enrolled) Funhouse families will have access to. You have the choice whether you would like to be added to this group by either agreeing or disagreeing on the Form attached to the link above. WhatsApp is used by alot of people in our community and is an easy and direct way to get information out so we thought this will work well for our families. This group will be used as another point of communication where we will share any important notices, upcoming events, and any other relevant information for our families. We will still use Xplor to communicate.

You will not be able to reply directly to the group and it will NOT be a place where you can mark your child absent or request bookings – this procedure will remain the same as it is now, but you can message one of 3 Managers listed in the group if you need clarification to something.

Please note your details (phone numbers) will remain private and only limited Funhouse Management team can see them or anyone saved in your personal contact list.

We are super excited about this next step in communication and cant wait to get this up and running.





What an incredible afternoon and a perfect turnout for our Bake it Blue Bake Sale!

We are truly honoured and grateful to be part of such a supportive community, surrounded by amazing children and families who love to get involved.

This year, we had the privilege of hosting a fun-filled afternoon to raise funds for the Jeans for Genes Foundation. The event featured a delicious bake sale with treats lovingly prepared by our wonderful Educators, children, and their families.

Jeans for Genes Day 2025

Alongside the baked goods, we had some fantastic activities to enjoy, from decorating denim jeans, to guessing how many chocolates were in the jar, to visiting our crazy hair station where children had their hair spray painted and styled in all sorts of colourful, wacky ways.

The children absolutely loved every moment, and our Educators had just as much fun joining in.

We are beyond thankful for your support in helping us make a difference. ❤️



Thanks to your incredible generosity, together we raised an amazing \$1,700!



Book Week

This month we had the joy of celebrating Book Week with the children! It was such a wonderful experience seeing everyone's creativity shine through as they dressed up as their favourite book characters.

The children were so proud of their costumes, and our Educators were equally excited to join in on the fun, taking pride in their own outfits and parading alongside the children and their teachers.

This year's theme, "A Book and an Adventure," inspired us to create a special display in our playroom. The display features the children's photos, their favourite books, and will soon include some beautiful craft pieces we have planned for the coming weeks. We can't wait to share the finished creations with you in next month's newsletter!



PJ DAY

Did you know that PJ Day is about raising awareness for children in foster care?

This year, Funhouse wanted to show our support by teaming up with Castle Hill Public School. Together, we shared the day in our comfiest pyjamas, joining the children in celebrating this important cause.

The children and educators had a wonderful time enjoying both our morning and afternoon sessions. We relaxed in our cosy wear, got creative making sleep masks and fun sleepover crafts, and even had the chance to run around the oval with our friends.

It was a day filled with comfort, fun, and community spirit—all while supporting a meaningful cause!



Encouraging positive behaviour: tips

Try our practical tips to encourage positive behaviour in your child.

How to encourage positive behaviour in your child

Children quickly learn to behave in positive ways when they get consistent, encouraging guidance from you. This means giving praise and attention when you notice your child behaving well and using consequences when you need to guide them towards more positive behaviour.

Here are practical tips for putting this positive approach into action.



Many things influence children's behaviour (<https://raisingchildren.net.au/school-age/behaviour/encouraging-good-behaviour/positive-behaviour-children-teenagers-overview>). It's always a good idea to think about why your child is behaving in a particular way. When you understand the reasons for your child's behaviour, you're better able to choose an appropriate response.

Tips to encourage positive behaviour

1. Give your child positive attention and spend quality time together

Your relationship is key to guiding your child towards positive behaviour. You can build a close and loving relationship by spending time with your child (<https://raisingchildren.net.au/school-age/connecting-communicating/connecting/enjoying-time>) playing, reading or chatting. Giving your child positive attention (<https://raisingchildren.net.au/school-age/behaviour/behaviour-management-tips-tools/attention>) like hugs, smiles and encouragement is also important.

2. Be a role model

Use your own behaviour to guide your child. Your child watches you to get clues on how to behave – and what you do is often much more important than what you ask them to do. For example, if you say 'please' yourself, it will encourage your child to say

3. Tell your child how you feel

Telling your child honestly how their behaviour affects you helps your child see things from your perspective. For example, 'I can't hear Nonna when you yell in my ear'. It's best to talk about feelings when you're both calm.

Helping your child understand their own and other people's emotions (<https://raisingchildren.net.au/school-age/development/school-age-social-emotional-development/understanding-managing-emotions-children-teenagers>) helps them cope with strong emotions like frustration, which sometimes lead to behaviour like tantrums (<https://raisingchildren.net.au/school-age/behaviour/crying-tantrums/tantrums>).

4. Notice your child being 'good'

When you notice positive behaviour, praise your child. For example, 'Wow, you're playing so nicely. I really like the way you're keeping all the blocks on the table'. Praise makes positive behaviour more likely and challenging behaviour less likely. Try to focus more on positive behaviour than challenging behaviour. It's always better to give many more positive comments than corrections.

5. Get down to your child's level

When you get close to your child, you can tune in to what they're feeling or thinking. Being close helps your child focus on what you're saying about their behaviour. It also makes it easier for your child to follow your instructions.

6. Listen actively

To listen actively, you can nod as your child talks and repeat back what you think your child is feeling. For example, 'It sounds like you felt really sad when Amit wouldn't let you join his game'. This helps your child feel heard, respected and comforted.

7. Keep promises

When you follow through on your promises, your child learns to trust and respect you. Your child learns that you won't let them down when you've promised something nice, and your child also learns not to try to change your mind when you've explained a consequence. So when you promise to go for a walk after your child picks up their toys, make sure you have your walking shoes handy. If you tell your 3-year-old that they'll have quiet time if they don't stop throwing dirt, be prepared to follow through.

8. Create an environment for positive behaviour

The environment around your child can influence their behaviour, so you can shape the environment to encourage positive behaviour (<https://raisingchildren.net.au/school-age/behaviour/behaviour-management-tips-tools/changing-environment>). This can be as simple as making sure your child's space has plenty of safe, stimulating things to play with. Also make sure that your child can't reach things they could break or that might hurt them.

9. Decide what's important

Before you get involved in anything your child is doing – especially to say 'no' or 'stop' – ask yourself if it really matters. By not giving attention to behaviour that isn't important and by keeping instructions, requests and negative feedback to a minimum, you create fewer opportunities for conflict and bad feelings. You can use family rules (<https://raisingchildren.net.au/school-age/behaviour/rules-consequences/family-rules>) to let everyone know what's important in your family.

10. Keep instructions simple and positive

Instructions (<https://raisingchildren.net.au/school-age/behaviour/behaviour-management-tips-tools/requests-instructions>) should be clear, short and appropriate for your child's age, so your child can understand and remember them. And positive instructions are usually better than negative ones, because they guide your child's behaviour in a positive way. For example, 'Please shut the gate' is better than 'Don't leave the gate open'. If you need to tell your child to stop doing something, always tell them what to do instead. For example, 'Stop jumping on the bed. Please sit on the bed'.

11. Give children responsibility – and consequences

As your child gets older, you can give your child more responsibility for their own behaviour. You can also give your child the chance to experience the natural consequences of that behaviour. For example, if it's your child's responsibility to pack for a sleepover and your child forgets their favourite pillow, the natural consequence is that your child will have to manage without the pillow for the night.

At other times you might need to provide consequences for challenging behaviour (<https://raisingchildren.net.au/school-age/behaviour/rules-consequences/consequences>). For these times, make sure that you've explained the consequences and your child has agreed to them in advance.

12. Give your child the chance to succeed

Set up your child to behave positively, and then praise them for it. For example, give your child some simple chores (<https://raisingchildren.net.au/school-age/family-life/routines-rituals-rules/chores-for-children>) or things that they can do to help the family. Praising your child's behaviour and effort will encourage your child to continue. And giving your child a lot of practice doing a chore helps them get better at it, feel good about doing it, and want to keep doing it.

13. Prepare for challenging situations

There are times when meeting your child's needs and doing things you need to do will be tricky – for example, when you're shopping, in the car or at an appointment. If you think about these challenging situations in advance, you can plan around your child's needs (<https://raisingchildren.net.au/school-age/behaviour/behaviour-management-tips-tools/planning-ahead>). Give your child a 5-minute warning before you need them to change activities. Talk to your child about why you need their cooperation. Then your child is prepared for what you expect.

14. Keep your sense of humour

It often helps to keep daily life with children light. You can do this by using songs, humour and fun. For example, you can pretend to be the menacing tickle monster who needs the toys picked up off the floor.

Humour at your child's expense won't help, though, because young children are easily hurt by 'teasing'. It's also best to avoid jokes when your child is behaving in challenging ways. This can accidentally reinforce the behaviour by giving it too much attention.