

September 2021 Newsletter

**Castle Hill
Funhouse**
Before, After & Vacation Care Centre

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»» LET'S WORK ««
Together



Hi Funhouse Families,

On this month

Indigenous Literacy Day _____ 1st

Father's Day _____ 7th

Child Protection Week _____ 5th – 11th

International Literacy Day _____ 8th

International Day of Sign Languages _ 23rd

Spring has sprung! We have many updates for our families so please read on to see all that is happening at Funhouse during the month of September!

Please continue to be mindful of health advice and stay informed with Funhouse's announcements using the Xplor App. Thank you for your constant support and as always, if you have any questions or need any support with your child's journey at Funhouse, please don't hesitate to reach out and contact us via email or phone.

Keep smiling!
The Team at Funhouse



The Funhouse Management Committee

Our next meeting is scheduled for:

**Monday 11th October
7pm - Online**

As a not-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 our Management via email
management@castlehillfunhouse.com.au

Funhouse Opening Hours and Closure Days

Castle Hill Funhouse is operating during the following hours:

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

Castle Hill Funhouse is **closed** during:

National Public Holidays

Two-week Summer Holiday Closure:

Friday 17th of December (6:30pm), re-open
Monday 3rd of January 2022

Contacting Funhouse

If your family needs to contact Funhouse for any reason, these are the best ways to get in touch with us:

The Team:

info@castlehillfunhouse.com.au

ph. 9680 3361

text message: 0423 843 917



Centre Manager:

nicky@castlehillfunhouse.com.au

ph. 9680 3361

text message: 0418 687 579

Group Leaders:

info@castlehillfunhouse.com.au

text message: 0423 843 917

or see us at the Centre!

Account Queries

Please contact our Admin Team, Louise and Hannah, for any queries about your statement or bookings. Each day, from 12pm until 2pm, one person from the admin team is available to answer families' queries.

The team can be contacted at

info@castlehillfunhouse.com.au

Or on the Funhouse phone: 0423 843 917

Enrolment for:

2022 2023 2024 2025 2026

We ask families to inform us if they have a child starting in 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 so we can add their name to the expression of interest list for the correct year. Siblings have priority when enrolment take place, that is, if we know that information beforehand.

Please catch any of the supervisors: Sue, Louise, Selina or Hannah if there's anything you'd like to chat about. Alternatively, please complete our online Feedback form:

<https://www.castlehillfunhouse.com.au/incident-grievance-feedback-form>

Feedback
is always welcome



Funhouse's New Centre Manager – Nicky

The Castle Hill Funhouse Management Committee is pleased to announce the appointment of our new Centre Manager, Nicky McNab. Nicky comes to us with deep experience in building and operating OOSH services. She was most recently the director of an OOSH service in Baulkham Hills. She is an excellent communicator and values building relationships with the children, staff and families. We are very pleased to have Nicky leading the Funhouse team and look forward to what the future holds under her stewardship.

A message from Nicky:

Hi there! I'm Nicky. I am the new Centre Manager here at Funhouse. I have over 19 years' experience in different aspects of childcare, including nine years in Before and After School Care. I have opened and successfully run a number of centres during this time and love being able to work with and support the children and families who attend the Service. I feel extremely privileged and happy to be part of this incredible Centre and look forward to meeting you all.



September/October Vacation Care

As per the current Government advice, Castle Hill Funhouse will remain open for Vacation Care for any family that requires care. However, **families across NSW are strongly encouraged to keep their children at home to reduce the risk of infection and transmission of COVID-19, unless they need to be at the Centre.** Our operating hours these school holidays will remain unchanged and we will be open from 7am-6:30pm.

Please note that due to the level of uncertainty in relation to health advice, Funhouse will be providing a full in-house Vacation Care program for September/October to ensure care can still be provided for our community. Vacation Care will be charged at either an in-house or incursion rate, depending on the day.

Due to the current circumstances we are operating in, last minute changes may be needed to accommodate for situations beyond our control.

General information about Vacation Care can be found on our website: <https://www.castlehillfunhouse.com.au/vacation-care>. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at info@castlehillfunhouse.com.au or on 0423 843 917.

Spring Exercise Over The Holidays

THIS MONTH LETS... DO YOGA

Short simple activities to get some active minutes in the day. You might already do yoga yourself, but have you ever included your children in your yoga session? Or maybe you have never done yoga before.

Jump on google and search simple yoga positions and learn together. Cosmic yoga is a very popular channel kids love. See the link below.



Try: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LhYtcadR9nw>



Be You offers information and resources specifically designed for Educators on specific mental health-related topics. At Castle Hill Funhouse, the team of staff is engaging with different modules and meet termly to consolidate the information in the context of Funhouse.

This month, the team focused on understanding mental health and our role supporting children and families. Our understandings revolve around:

- Understanding that an individual's mental health and wellbeing is not fixed or static
 - It can change depending on a complex interplay of social, psychological, biological and cultural elements in a person's life
- In a community, children and young people learn many new skills and develop rapidly
 - It is very common for children and adults demonstrate a range of behaviours and emotions
- Identifying when a child or young person needs extra support comes down to noticing
 - Behaviour and emotions can be difficult to interpret
 - If you're not sure what to do, that's totally fine and it's okay to say so. It's our role to notice changes that could cause concern and act appropriately

Sustainability at Funhouse

While we continue to push through lockdown, we at Funhouse have made a conscious effort to be sustainable where possible and keep the children engaged in outdoor activities. Particularly, the children have been spending a lot of time gardening as we look forward to the ripening of berries from our mulberry tree and fruits from our bush tucker plants.

The children and staff alike have enjoyed creating mini planters from our blooming succulents and have spent their time reconnecting with the surrounding natural environment. Staff at Funhouse continue to support the children in expressing their interests in the plants and wildlife that surrounds our Centre, and teaching valuable hands-on skills which they can apply in their daily lives, both at home and in the future.



Sustainable Living At Home

Honey and Sugar Body Scrub

Ingredients:

1 ½ tbsp vanilla extract
 1 tbsp honey
 ½ cup coconut oil
 ½ cup brown sugar
 2 cups raw sugar
 OPTIONAL: essential oils

Instructions:

1. Combine all sugars together in large mixing bowl with mixing utensil
2. Mix in the coconut oil
3. Add the honey and vanilla and mix well
4. Add any other ingredients and mix
5. Transfer to jar
6. Enjoy in the bath or shower!

Final Product



Child Protection Week

The theme for Child Protection Week this year is “every child in every community, needs a fair go.” The theme expresses the importance of treating all children fairly by encouraging families and communities to consider what resources children need to thrive and be healthy. Child Protection week gives individuals around Australia the opportunity to bring issues of child abuse and neglect into the spotlight, and reflect on the roles they may play in protecting the rights of young people.

At Funhouse, we take the wellbeing and safety of our children very seriously and are here to support families at our service. Staff have been working hard on completing a refresher Child Protection training course online to keep our knowledge up to date on this topic. We have a few activities planned throughout the week for the children to get involved in such as an art activity on what our neighbourhood looks like currently and how we can adapt it so that we are as safe as possible.

Should you have any concerns or are seeking support, we encourage all families to reach out to us at info@castlehillfunhouse.com.au or on 0423 843 917.

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK
5 - 11 September 2021



COVID-19 Updates and Extra Measures

To continue best hygiene practices, we ask families and our team of staff to do the following:

- Sign your children in/out using the Xplor app **and** check in using the Funhouse QR Code
- Maintain social distancing
- Parents, authorised people as well as Funhouse staff welcoming parents are to wear a mask
- If an authorised person is collecting your child from Funhouse and they are unwell OR at a high risk, please contact Funhouse via email to organise a different collection alternative
- Use sanitiser prior to signing your child/ren in and out if using manual sign in/out paper or iPad
- Follow general hygiene guidelines: cough into your elbow, don't attend Funhouse if you or your child is unwell or have COVID-19 symptoms
- All children to wash hands when arriving at Before School Care and Vacation Care
- Speak up to a Funhouse supervisor if you are concerned with the safety of your child, yourself and/or others

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding.

If you have symptoms



Fever



Cough



Sore throat



Shortness of breath

- **Self-isolate first.** Call your GP or visit a public COVID-19 clinic: www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19
- Travel in your own car or a private car driven by a family member or an existing close contact. **Do not travel by public transport, taxi or ride-share service.**
- **Wear a surgical mask.** If unavailable, ask for one immediately when you arrive.

COVID19 – Testing

If your child comes to Funhouse with COVID symptoms we will:

1. Call you immediately to collect
2. Inform CHPS

Your child cannot return to Funhouse or CHPS without a negative COVID-19 test result



Before School Care: Drop off/Sign in New Procedure

Due to the lower number of children and staff working in the morning, and to reduce face to face contact, we now ask our families when dropping your child/ren off to:

- Sign them in on the iPad
- Scan the QR code
- Stay where you are, send your child/ren to put their bags away and walk into the Funhouse playroom
- Staff will acknowledge your child/ren are in our care by waving or giving a thumbs up to the parent

After School Care: Collection/Sign out New Procedure

When collecting your child/ren in the afternoon, we now ask families to check in & sign the child/ren out using the iPads located in the tunnel. A staff member will be close by and will call for your child to meet you in the tunnel.

Please note only 2 adults permitted in the tunnel at a time. If you arrive and there are 2 adults in the tunnel, please kindly wait to the side and practice social distancing until you can enter.

COVID-19 Reminder

Please remember that students and staff cannot attend work or school if unwell, even with mild symptoms of COVID-19. Any person with any COVID-19 **symptoms** will be sent home and cannot return until they have received a negative test result and are symptom-free. If you are bringing your child to Funhouse or collecting your child from Funhouse and you have COVID-19 symptoms, we ask that you do not enter the school grounds and instead, call the Funhouse office on 0423 843 917 and discuss the situation with a supervisor.

Should you wish to access our COVID SAFE plan, please access the document on our website <http://www.castlehillfunhouse.com.au/funhouse-covidsafe-plan>

Attendance at Funhouse

We ask families to continue using the Xplor Home App to mark your child/ren absent if they will not attend Before or After School Care. **Please note**, as of the 19th of July, families whose children are not attending Funhouse due to the stay at home orders, will not need to pay the gap fee. We can confirm the gap fee will be waived until the end of lockdown. For families that have not notified us of their child/ren's absence, we will be collecting daily attendances from the school office. If your child is booked to attend an After School Care session but did not attend school, we will expect them to also be absent from Funhouse, and as such, not follow our Missing Child Policy. If your child must attend After School Care, but hasn't attended school, we ask you to send us an email so we can expect them.

Extra Allowable Absences for Childcare Services during stay-at-home orders

Families will not have to use their 42 allowable absences during the lockdown. Additional allowable absences will be available until it is announced Greater Sydney is no longer a hotspot, which means families will still have allowable absence days to use after lockdown. The additional allowable absences will be backdated from the start of lockdown.

