

November 2021 Newsletter



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Welcome Back!



1 On this month

- Diwali _____ 4st
- National Recycling Week _____ 8th – 12th
- Remembrance Day _____ 31st

Hi Funhouse Families,

Welcome to November! We would also like to officially welcome everyone back to Funhouse! It has been incredible to see all our children together again and we can't wait to see what the rest of the term brings us!

Keep smiling!
The Team at Funhouse ☺



The Funhouse Management Committee

Our next meeting is scheduled for:

**Monday 6 December 2021
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

Summer Holiday Closure:

Friday 17th of December (6:30pm), re-open
Monday 10th 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, Hannah or Alissa 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



Fee Increase for 2022

Dear Funhouse parents,

At Funhouse, we aim to provide excellent, yet affordable, care for your children. As a not-for-profit centre, we try to keep our fees as low and competitive as possible, while continuing to provide a fun, engaging and safe program for the kids. We always work hard to keep costs down and will continue to do so. However, at times we need to reassess our fees to make sure they are sufficient to cover our operating costs.

The last time we raised fees was back in [2018]. Since then, we have seen our costs increase due to COVID, inflation and our staff's well deserved Award increases. Therefore, the Management Committee has reviewed our costs and fees and decided that we must increase our fees from Jan 2022.

Commencing January 2022, Funhouse fees will be:

<u>Session</u>	<u>Fees in 2022</u>
Before School Care- permanent	\$ 13.50
Before School Care casual booking	\$ 16.50
After School Care- permanent	\$ 24.50
After School Care casual booking	\$ 26.50
Vacation Care - in house activities	\$ 50.00
Vacation Care - incursion	\$ 60.00
Vacation Care - excursion	\$ 80.00
Annual Membership fees	\$ 25.00 (remain the same)
Non-Notification Fee	\$ 25.00 per event
Late Payment Fee	\$25.00
Late Pick Up Fees After 6:30pm to 6:45pm (or part thereof)	\$35.00 per child
Late Pick Up Fees from 6:45pm to 7:00pm (an additional)	\$ 55 per child

Funhouse is a non-profit organisation, and its success depends on not only our excellent staff, but our parent volunteers too. If you wish to be a part of future discussions and decisions, we would love you to join us at the management committee meetings next year.

Yours Sincerely,

The Funhouse Management Committee

Re-Enrolments

This year, our aim is to make re-enrolments as seamless as possible for all families. That means that we will not ask families to complete a re-enrolment form, instead ask families to email us if they do not wish to continue their enrolment and bookings for 2022.

All families enrolled for 2021, will automatically be re-enrolled for 2022 in Week 5 of Term 4 (starting 1st of November), unless you have emailed us to cancel your enrolment. A 2022 membership fee will be added to your account, and your current bookings will continue through to next year.

For families that have children with medical conditions or allergies, you will be contacted separately by our Work Health and Safety Leader, Selina to complete your yearly review.



Absences, Gap Fee Wavier Ends & Non-Notification Begins

As of Monday 25th October, the gap fee waiver has ended. This means families who have permanent bookings will need to pay the fee for each session, whether your child/ren attends or is marked absent. Families will, however, have an additional 10 days of absences available to them for the 21/22 Financial Year.

As all children are now expected to be attending school, if your child/ren does not attend a booked before or after school care session, you are expected to mark them absent through the Xplor Home App. From Monday 25th October 2021, we have begun our non-notification procedure. If you do not inform us of your child's absence before 2:30pm or mark them away on the Xplor App, you will be notified by email and phone call once, the next time you will be charged \$15:00 for each time you do not notify us. Please be aware that as of January 2022 this fee will go up to \$25.00 per time we are not notified.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the above information, please don't hesitate to contact a member of the admin team on 0423 943 917 or via email info@castlehillfunhouse.com.au.

Summer Vacation Care Program 2021/2022

Our summer vacation care program will be available to book as of: **Monday Week 7, 15th November**
Excursions

In alignment with the Department of Education and CHPS recommendations, we are aiming to have some excursions in our Summer Vacation Care Program.

All venue COVID safe plans will be adhered to and our Centre Risk Minimisation Plans have been reviewed and are ready to go. They are also available for families to view upon request.

Important: while the aim is to incorporate excursions in our program, Funhouse will be monitoring the COVID situation closely and will inform families if the program changes.

Drop Off/ Pick Up and Head Count Information

As part of our compliance procedures, we need to complete head counts throughout the afternoon to ensure we are accountable for every child in our care. We are also currently running our afternoons a little differently to best ensure we are staying outside as much as possible and keeping the age groups separated as best we can. During this time, **we ask for your patience and consideration** as it may take a little longer for your child to make their way to you for collection.

As part of our Covid-19 procedures, we are reminding you that only **two parents** should be in the tunnel at one time to ensure we are socially distancing. When dropping off or collecting your child/ren, please:

- Scan the Funhouse QR Code to check in
- Scan the Xplor QR Code to sign your child/ren in or out
- Once scanned both codes and the Funhouse staff member has called for your child, please wait to the side, out of the tunnel to allow other parents to come through.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the above information, please don't hesitate to speak a supervisor.



Before School Care: Drop off/Sign in Procedure

In order to reduce face to face contact and to ensure COVID safety, we continue ask our families when dropping your child/ren off to:

- Scan the QR code in the tunnel
- Sign them in on the iPad in the tunnel
- 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 Procedure

When collecting your child/ren in the afternoon, we 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>

Sunscreen

Coles 50+ Sunscreen is provided at Funhouse when the UV index is 3 and above. Please provide an alternative (labelled) if your child is unable to use this brand.



COVID19 – Testing

If your child comes to Funhouse with COVID symptoms we will call you immediately to collect and inform CHPS. ***Your child cannot return to Funhouse or CHPS without a negative COVID-19 test result***

Outdoor Play

This term, the team at Funhouse will continue to be COVID safe by utilizing our outdoor areas. This means that during Before School Care, staff will arrange to open outdoor areas for those wanting to play outside, while each afternoon (weather permitting) children will also have access to both indoor and outdoor play areas.

As we move into summer, please ensure that your child/ren have their own water bottles which can be refilled in the Funhouse Kitchen, or at the bubblers outside of our Kitchen. Staff will continue to encourage all children to stay hydrated throughout each session!



Sustainability at Funhouse

As staff, children and families are welcomed back to Funhouse, we are able to kickstart our Sustainable living projects and program once more! Currently at Funhouse, we are looking after silk worms, allowing the children to explore and develop their knowledge of the creature's life cycle. In the future, we plan on being able to grow our Funhouse gardens with strawberries, tomatoes and other yummy fruit and vegetables which we can incorporate into our menu or cooking program.

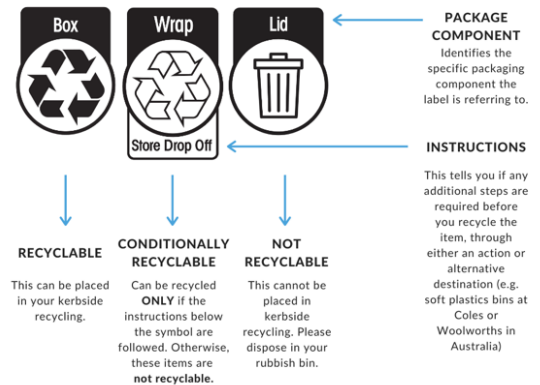
If you would like to join Funhouse in starting your own garden, we would love to see pictures! It is a very easy process and all you need is a pot, some seeds, soil and some helping hands!

Recycling Reminders

Recycling can be confusing, getting to know the Australasian Recycling Labels (ARL) will help make recycling much easier. The ARL ensures packaging is disposed of correctly and can be recovered for future use in new products.

Curby begun on the NSW Central Coast, but is now being introduced to 1 million Australian homes. Curby makes recycling soft plastics easy. Register your interest [here](#)

Source: www.recyclingnearyou.com.au/arl/



Core Strength: Hit the Playground!

Short simple activities to get some active minutes in the day!

Next time you are at the playground don't just sit back and watch the kids have all the fun! Join in too. Your children will love having you play along and climbing, crawling, hanging and sliding all increase the heart rate.

See how many slides you can all have in a minute? Who can cross the monkey bars? Who can swing the highest?



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, we reflect on the importance of family partnerships. Partnering with families is considered a key factor supporting positive mental health outcomes. Working with families helps to support children and young people's social and emotional wellbeing, learning and development opportunities during unplanned activities and conversations.

The benefits of strong educator-family relationships are clear, with research consistently showing their importance to social and emotional wellbeing and academic achievement. Therefore, the goal of family partnerships and engagement is to develop an equal partnership around the child or young person's everyday experiences.

Should you have any concerns about your child/ren, or wish to speak to their year group leader, please do not hesitate to send an email to info@castlehillfunhouse.com.au.

