

# October 2021 Newsletter



5 Les Shore Place, Castle Hill NSW 2154  
p 9680 3361 | m 0423 843 917 | e info@castlehillfunhouse.com.au



## 1 On this month

- World Food Day \_\_\_\_\_ 16<sup>st</sup>
- Children's Week \_\_\_\_\_ 23<sup>rd</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>
- Halloween \_\_\_\_\_ 31<sup>st</sup>

### 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.



Hi Funhouse Families,

Welcome to October! We have lots of announcements and exciting news happening around Funhouse that we are excited to share with you. Keep reading for more information!

*Keep smiling!*  
*The Team at Funhouse ☺*



## The Funhouse Management Committee

Our next meeting is scheduled for:

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November  
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](mailto: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 17<sup>th</sup> of December (6:30pm), re-open  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:info@castlehillfunhouse.com.au)

ph. 9680 3361

text message: 0423 843 917



### Centre Manager:

[nicky@castlehillfunhouse.com.au](mailto:nicky@castlehillfunhouse.com.au)

ph. 9680 3361

text message: 0418 687 579

### Group Leaders:

[info@castlehillfunhouse.com.au](mailto: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](mailto: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



## Gradual Returns / Welcome Back!

We are so excited to welcome you all back to the Centre in the coming weeks! The return to school plan was announced by the NSW Government is as follows:

- **18<sup>th</sup> of October** – Kindergarten and Year 1
- **25<sup>th</sup> of October** – Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 6

If you are returning to work on the 11th of October and expect your child/ren to return to Before and After school care earlier than the above dates, **please email us by Friday 8th October specifying the date we should expect your child/ren to start attending.**

If your child/ren **will be** returning as per the dates above, no further action is required.

If your child/ren will **not** be returning as per the dates above, we expect families to mark their child/ren absent through the Xplor Home App.

You can find more information and advice from NSW Health here: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families> and if you have any questions or concerns about your child/ren's return to Funhouse, please don't hesitate to contact us at [info@castlehillfunhouse.com.au](mailto:info@castlehillfunhouse.com.au) or on the Funhouse phone 0423 843 917.

## What Will Term 4 Look Like?

- While mask wearing for children under 12 years of age is not mandatory, it will be encouraged at Funhouse. Funhouse will provide masks for our children should they like to wear one.
- Funhouse will continue outdoor play as well as ensure good ventilation throughout the Centre.
- Weather permitting, Funhouse will aim to eat scheduled meals outdoors.
- Staff and children will be reminded to wash their hands thoroughly throughout each session.
- Funhouse will continue to follow Public Health Orders. Therefore, no staff, worker or contractor will be allowed to work on site unless they are fully vaccinated.
- Funhouse will continue to work closely with Castle Hill Public School to ensure that we follow the same guidelines to ensure consistency.



## Term 4 Fun at Funhouse!

This term, the team at Funhouse will be actively working on reconnecting with our children as they gradually return to school. The team have lots of exciting experiences planned for everyone to enjoy! This includes multiple year group events and a final shindig at the end of the term to celebrate the end of the year.

# LET'S PARTY!

We know the return to school is exciting for many and we are in the process of organising support for the transition. Should your child/ren or family like to discuss any additional support at any point leading up to the transition or when your child returns to Funhouse, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's group leader by emailing [info@castlehillfunhouse.com.au](mailto:info@castlehillfunhouse.com.au).



## 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>

### Before School Care: Drop off/Sign in 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 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 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](http://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*

## Sustainable Living Leader at Funhouse

Hi, my name is Mickey! I have been at Funhouse for 10 months. I am currently studying primary teaching and early childhood. Recently, I have had the opportunity to take on the role as Sustainability leader. I am very excited to start this role and learn more with the children about sustainability! In this role, I want to expand staff and children knowledge of what it means to be sustainable and how we can implement this in our day-to-day life. In the future, I would love to expand our garden at Funhouse and our overall involvement with sustainable practices!

Should you have any questions or suggestions for the sustainability leader or the sustainability practices at Funhouse, please don't hesitate to email us at [info@castlehillfunhouse.com.au](mailto:info@castlehillfunhouse.com.au)



## Core Strength: Pass the ball

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

All you need for these activities is a ball or another object.

- 1) To start you and your child/ren need to find a clear space and get into plank position. A carpeted or grass area would work well to protect forearms. All you need to do is stay in the plank position, lift one arm (while still hovering) and roll the ball to one another without collapsing. See how long you can pass the ball for before falling. Try again, can you beat your number of passes? Challenge yourselves by making the distance between both of you greater.
- 2) This time you need to be in a bridge position. (Lying on your back, knees bent, lifting your bottom off the floor). Make sure you are close together. While in this position pass the ball under your bridges to one another and again challenge yourselves, how many times can you pass the ball without collapsing. Make it harder by passing the ball under one bridge, over the other, making a figure 8 with the ball.



## Children's Week

The Children's Week Council of Australia strongly advocates for and promotes the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child. Each year an article is selected by the Children's Week Council of Australia. This article becomes the theme for Children's Week across the country! The Children's Week National Theme for 2021 is based on UNCRC Article 15: **"Children have the right to choose their own friends and safely connect with others."**

Children's Week in NSW Raises community awareness of the needs, rights and achievements of children and youth. More so, this event encourages the community, children's services, support groups, schools, youth and community groups to plan and conduct events to celebrate childhood and to highlight issues involved in childhood and youth

Thousands of children and their families around the country will be involved in activities during Children's Week thanks to the participation of schools, childcare centres, play groups, libraries and cultural and community groups. These events and activities focus the attention of the wider community on children and what's important to them. Examples include education (in general), language and literacy, health, sport and recreation, the arts, science, as well as children's cultural, social and emotional needs. At Funhouse, children get to celebrate their own achievements, display their talents, demonstrate their skills and just have good fun. Families and communities reflect on the lives of children in other parts of the world where safety and freedom are not automatic.

## Sustainability at Funhouse

At Funhouse, we currently have a few ongoing sustainable projects we are involved in and recently have been able to have an additional project of growing silkworms into moths! We can use resources such as the leaves from the mulberry tree to feed and assist with the silkworm lifestyle. The children will be able to watch this development and be involved with feeding and caring for them, as well as understanding their life cycle.



**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 Responding Together. This involved understanding of what Critical Incidents are, how they differ in different learning communities and what the role of the learning environment is in promoting a mentally healthy community, preparing for critical incidents and being responsive in times of crisis.

We learned that as a centre, in combination with other support networks, we play a critical role in ensuring children receive the help they need to deal with each incident.



For more information about critical incidents, see this BeYou video:

<https://youtu.be/H5N15jIQS8s>

