

# August 2021 Newsletter

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

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



**FUN**  
is  
good.  
~Dr. Seuss



Hi Funhouse Families,

## On this month

**Jeans 4 Genes Day** \_\_\_\_\_ 6<sup>th</sup>  
**World's Indigenous People's Day** \_\_\_\_\_ 9<sup>th</sup>  
**National Science Week** \_\_\_\_\_ 16<sup>th</sup>  
**Keep Australia Beautiful Week** \_\_\_\_\_ 22<sup>nd</sup>  
**Book Week** \_\_\_\_\_ 21<sup>st</sup>

There are a few things happening at the moment so please read on to ensure you have all the latest Funhouse updates.

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 6<sup>th</sup> September  
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)

## 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



### Acting Centre Manager:

[louise@castlehillfunhouse.com.au](mailto:louise@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!

## 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  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> of January 2022

## Funhouse's New Acting Centre Manager – Louise

Due to a change in circumstances, we are recruiting a new Centre Manager. We have appointed Louise Moit who heads our admin team to the role of Acting Centre Manager whilst we actively recruit for a permanent person. We will update you as soon as we have further news. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at [management@castlehillfunhouse.com.au](mailto:management@castlehillfunhouse.com.au)



Please catch any of the supervisors: Isabelle, 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>

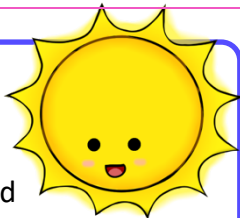
**Feedback**  
is always welcome





## 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.



This month, the staff continued their efforts on supporting children through the ever-changing COVID-19 environment. Our focuses are:

### Focusing energy in a positive direction

- Engaging with children to talk about what they can do to minimise the spread of COVID-19 and help them feel more in control.

### Help regulating emotions

- Supporting children to express their emotions so they feel listened to and validated. Explaining that it's normal to feel a range of emotions during this time.

### Looking for changes in behaviour

- Children who are feeling overwhelmed by stress or anxiety could be tired, withdrawn, irritable, fearful, unmotivated, need more comfort or have trouble concentrating. We are on the lookout for these signs and will discuss with your family if we notice anything unusual.

## 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

## Vacation Care Dates

Vacation care forms are released each term Monday of Week 7. **Keep in mind**, we are currently waiting for updated health advice before we release our program. September/October Vacation Care will run from the 20<sup>th</sup> of September to the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 from 7am-6:30pm daily.



### 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.

**2022 Enrolment will start taking place at the end of this month.**

## Winter Warm Up



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

How often do your children say "I'm cold?" Next time they do set them a challenge and join in too. Ask: How can you warm your body up? (It must be via movement) Anything they do you must copy.

You could: Jump, skip, spin, run, hop, wiggle, roll, dance, chase, tickle... Before long you will all be warm and have done a little exercise in the process!



## 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.*

### 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.

### 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**





## 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 for the next 4 weeks. 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.

## OOSH Educators Day 2021

We had an INCREDIBLE day on the 28<sup>th</sup> of July as staff celebrated OOSH Educators Day online in a COVID safe way. At Castle Hill Funhouse we do not always refer to ourselves as an OOSH, however we fall into this category as providers of **O**utside **O**f School **H**ours care!

Educators are often at the centre of children's lives, building trusting and long-term relationships with children well into adulthood. Now more than ever before, it's vital that we all realise OOSH Educators do far more than care for children: they are a significant contributor to their local school community.

How did we celebrate OOSH Educators Day? An online hangout/catch up with our team, Kahoot quiz, PRIZES and lolly bags! We cannot wait for next year's celebrations!



## Farewell Isabelle!

We would like to give a final farewell to Isabelle who will celebrate her last day at Funhouse on Tuesday 10th August. Isabelle's commitment, dedication, passion, vision and creativity have made a profound difference in her time leading Funhouse. While Isabelle's departure will be felt deeply in our Funhouse community, the team she has assembled and culture she has created are a lasting legacy of which we all can be very proud. We will miss her and wish her the best of luck in her new journey beyond Funhouse.



**We'll Miss You!**



## Sustainability at Funhouse

This term, Funhouse has continued with its commitment to sustainability by meaningfully connecting with our children and reflecting on our daily practices within our program.

Staff have utilized the low attendance at Funhouse by engaging children in discussions about the ways in which we can all be conscious of the environment. This included planning and creating a letter writing station out of recycled materials and learning about the animals and habitats which surround us! We then recorded these practices in our Sustainable Living Journal.

With our low numbers, we have also been able to reduce our overall waste and be resource conscious as we focused on re-using materials for activities and finding alternatives when craft supplies run out. We have also enjoyed our time in the sun exploring the troughs and carrying out some garden maintenance during this winter season.



## Group Leader Activity Packs

We miss seeing everyone at Funhouse and Group Leaders, as well as the entire Funhouse Team, hope everyone is staying safe, happy and healthy!

In the meantime, Funhouse is still open and we have been keeping busy doing lots of fun activities which we would like to share with our families. Group Leaders have taken some time to prepare an activity pack specifically for their year group. You can access these activity packs on the Xplor App. We know many families are very busy with online learning, but if you have the chance, please reach out to us with some feedback or a photo of the completed activities!

