

December 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



Merry
Christmas
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR



Hi Funhouse Families,

Welcome to our final newsletter for 2020

On behalf of the entire Funhouse team, we would like to thank our wonderful families for being a part of this community during the ups and downs of 2021. We could not have done it without you!

A reminder – Vacation Care bookings are due by 10th December 2021. Book now using your Xplor Home App ☺

On this month

Vacation Care Bookings Closing Date 10th
Last Day of School 2021 16th
Last Day of Funhouse 2021 17th
Funhouse is Closed 6:30pm 17th
Christmas 25th

Keep smiling!
The Team at Funhouse ☺



The Funhouse Management Committee

Our next meeting is scheduled for:

**Monday 7th February 2022
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

Summer Closure

Funhouse's last day for this year will be:

Friday 17th December 2021

Funhouse will re-open:

7am Monday 10th January 2022

We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday period, and we cannot wait to welcome everyone back next year!

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



Summer Vacation Care Program 2021/2022

Our summer vacation care bookings are due:

Friday 10th December

Xplor: Please ensure you book your child/ren's vacation care days through the Xplor app.

Excursions: In alignment with the Department of Education recommendations, we are aiming to have some excursions in our Summer Vacation Care Program. All COVID safe plans will be adhered to and our Centre Risk Minimisation Plans have been reviewed and are ready to go. They are 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.

Excursion Permission Form:

<https://www.castlehillfunhouse.com.au/dec-jan-2022-excursion-permission>

Booking Guidance:

[https://www.castlehillfunhouse.com.au/makin
g-a-vacation-care-booking](https://www.castlehillfunhouse.com.au/makin-g-a-vacation-care-booking)



COVID19 Update

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

We are continuing to monitor the Department of Education guidelines and will provide updates as they arrive.



We have a
COVID-19 Safety Plan
and are committed to
keeping you safe.

Kindergarten 2022 – Jan Vacation Care

Kindergarten 2022 are welcome to join our January Vacation Care Program! Please use your Xplor Home app to book now ☺

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.

Child Care Subsidy

From Service's Australia:

From 10 December 2021, we'll remove the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) annual cap. We'll backdate the change to the start of the 2021–22 financial year. If your family already reached the cap, we'll reassess your CCS entitlement and pay you any money owed to you in December 2021.

You don't need to do anything. We'll apply this change automatically.

For more information, please visit:

www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/childcaresubsidy
<https://www.dese.gov.au/child-care-subsidy/higher-child-care-subsidy-and-removal-annual-cap>

Farewell Year 6!

On behalf of the entire team at Funhouse, we would like to wish all our Year 6 children the best of luck as they move into to high school. We are very proud of how far they have come and are excited to hear about all their future endeavors. We would like to remind all Year 6s to stay relaxed, focused and give your best. We have no doubt that you will succeed in all that you put your mind to.



Funhouse's Senior Operations Manager

My name is Eva Portillo, I have worked in the childcare industry for 11 years in various roles in Long Day Care and Before and After School Care. I enjoy empowering educators to create inclusive environments, supporting children's health and safety, scaffolding children's learning and enhancing service culture.

I'm excited to begin this journey to achieve positive outcomes for children, families and community. I look forward to meeting the team at Funhouse and the families shortly this year and in 2022, stay safe.

Eva's first day at Funhouse will be on the 13th of December.



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. These headcounts occur at 4:15pm and 5:00pm.

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.

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.



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

This month, the team focused on Empowerment in Childhood. This involved understanding that children have the capacity for expression, decision-making, exploring ideas with their peers and directing their learning. They're increasingly able to express their likes and dislikes, make choices about who and what they want to play with, and contribute ideas about their learning experiences.

Transition strategies – which involve early learning services, schools and home – support continued growth of self-determination when they highlight children's opportunities to make choices and manage their learning.

Sustainability at Funhouse

This month at Funhouse, we were able to learn more about Sustainability after participating in a variety of activities during Sustainability Week! During Week 7, staff utilized our physical spaces at Funhouse and prompted children to get involved in activities such as gardening and loose parts creations which in which we recycled items from nature, donations, and old equipment. We also spent time exploring different Indigenous practices, all in which promoted discussion between staff and children about how we can move forward in becoming a more sustainable Centre.



5 Minute MOVES:

Where To Next?

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

HOW TO PLAY: This game is best played outdoors, in an open area with different landmarks or locations that children can run to. On small pieces of paper write down the names of different landmarks in the vicinity, i.e., the fence, goal post, a tree, swing... Put the pieces of paper in a small bag that can be carried as you run. One child pulls out a piece of paper and reads the location. Then they all have to run to that location. Once everyone reaches the destination, a different child pulls out another piece of paper, and you all run again.

Why is moving your body important? For children, exercise helps to develop healthy bones, muscles, and joints. Exercise also contributes to the development of a healthy heart and lungs. Over the summer holidays, we would like to encourage all our families to have fun while staying safe, active, and hydrated! 😊



Sustainable Living at Home

Do you have a stockpile of your little artist's creations that you are ready to part with? These beautiful drawings and paintings can become this year's wrapping paper. Ask your child if they can pick out some artworks especially for grandparent's and friends presents. Family and friends will feel extra special

receiving presents wrapped in art.



REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLING, RE-LOVE.

MERRY CHRISTMAS.

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

