

April 2022 Newsletter



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On this month

Easter 17th

Ramadan Begins 2nd

Earth Day 22nd

ANZAC Day 25th

Hi Funhouse Families!

April Vacation Care is right around the corner!
Please use your Xplor Home app as well as our
website forms to book or contact our admin
team to enrol if you are a new family. Book early
to avoid disappointment. We look forward to
seeing you these holidays!

Keep Smiling!

The Funhouse Team

Keep smiling!

The Team at Funhouse ☺



The Funhouse Management Committee

Our next AGM meeting is scheduled for:

Monday 9th May 2022, 7pm - Online

Our centre is a not-profit organisation and is run by parents who volunteer their time to attend management meetings once a month to make major decisions about Castle Hill Funhouse. **We ask all families using the centre to attend.**

Funhouse is always looking for volunteers to join our parent committee so if you would like to get involved, please contact our Management via email management@castlehillfunhouse.com.au.

Positions available include: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Committee Members.

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

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. or text message: 0423 843 917

ph. or text message: 0418 687 579

Centre Manager:

nicky@castlehillfunhouse.com.au

text message: 0423 843 917

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 (Hannah) for any queries about your statement or bookings. **Please note that there are NO staff in the office between 9 and 12pm,** however we endeavor to answer enquiries as quickly as possible.

The team can be contacted at

info@castlehillfunhouse.com.au

Or on the Funhouse phone: 0423 843 917

CHPS Extra Curricular

If your child is participating in a school extra-curricular event (band, chess, PSSA...), please ensure you complete this Funhouse form. For Funhouse to legally release children to their extra-curricular activities, families must complete the permission form on our website:

<https://www.castlehillfunhouse.com.au/chps-extra-curricular-permission-fo>

Please catch any of the supervisors: Eva, Sue, Selina, Hannah, Alissa, Dana, Katherine or Sue T 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



Pre-Transition Risk Minimisation Strategies

- RP/Supervisor/Floor manager is to **collect attendances at 2:00PM** from school office
- Any children that are marked absent on that list are noted and parents/guardians are contacted between 2:00PM – 3:00PM to confirm an absence/attendance
- Non-notification fees are applied between 2:00PM-3:00PM
- Children who have been absent the previous day can be contacted via text/phone call to confirm an absence/attendance
- Any confirmed absences are marked on Xplor prior to transition
- Staff member is allocated at the **back gate** to ensure no Funhouse children leave the premises after the school bell

All K-6 Funhouse rolls are completed by 3:15PM. In an event that a child is unaccounted for, Supervisor/RP/Floor manager is to refer to the below when locating the whereabouts of a child/ren

Simultaneously

Supervisor/RP/Floor manager **contact** the parent on the provided phone numbers. If both parents do not answer, contact the authorised nominees (emergency contacts).

Whilst contacting parents, **confirm with the school office** if these child/ren have been collected early from school or did not attend on this day, searching the bus bay and confirming with kiss and drop teachers.



IF the parent or guardian has confirmed the child was due to attend the ASC session, and cannot be located at the bus bay, office, school bathrooms or school premises, notify NS, Senior Operations Manager (on site).

Staff minimise play areas use walkie talkies to confirm the child has joined an area post roll call.

call emergency services for assistance on 000

IF the parent/guardian AND authorised nominees cannot be contacted, send a text message (below) to both parents/guardians
"Your child, _____ is booked in for ASC at Castle hill Funhouse and has not yet been signed in. We have received no information from you that has advised us of their absence today, which now classifies your child as missing. If you do not reply within **10 minutes**, we will follow safe practice by contacting the police.

Staff minimise play areas use walkie talkies to confirm the has child joined an area post roll call.

notify NS, Senior Operations Manager (on site) and **call emergency services for assistance on 000 if the parent/guardian does not respond OR if they confirm they were due to attend**

IF the parent/guardian confirm that their child/ren WILL NOT be attending due to early collection or alternative arrangements, RP/NS/Supervisor/Floor manager mark the child absent and remind the parent that we must be notified prior to **2PM or they will be charged a non-notification fee**

Once the whereabouts of the child has been determined, an incident report is filled out including the duration of their time unaccounted for and all steps that were followed based off this document. That incident report is to be checked by the NS or SOM prior to submission.

Note: Families will be charged a \$25.00 non-notification fee each time Funhouse is not notified of a child's absence.



Children's Health and Safety

Rolls and Transition

Funhouse is working with the school to try and close the gap on children who are booked into our care in the afternoons for a smoother transition. This is to avoid delays or confusion for our children who attend. We now have meeting points directly outside the year groups and children are directed to our educators by teachers in their classrooms. This enables our educators to ensure children are signed into our care with no delays. If a child has gone to the wrong area, they can be located in a much shorter time frame. We would like to remind parents to please always let Funhouse know if your child is going to be away or mark them absent on the Xplor Home app before 2:00pm.

Food

To ensure the children's health and safety at Funhouse, we will no longer be allowing children to consume food items from their bags. We have introduced this measure to ensure we can safely accommodate our children who have anaphylaxis and food allergies. This is an extra measure we have implemented to prevent and minimise the risk of children being exposed to certain allergens which potentially could be life threatening to a minority of our children. Please note we will be able to provide extra food items to your child/children to ensure their needs are being met whilst at Funhouse. We will continue to provide children with breakfast, afternoon tea and late snack. Please let us know if you have any questions or need any further clarification.

Welcome Katherine!

Hi everyone, my name is Katherine and I have recently joined the Funhouse team as the Work Health and Safety Leader. I currently hold a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and am working towards completing my Diploma in School Aged Education and Care. I have a driven passion in working with children to support their overall health, well-being and needs. I look forward to working with you all.

Alongside the new Work Health and Safety Leader, Katherine will join the Funhouse Team as a Supervisor and Responsible Person.

Please come and say hello if you see Katherine around the centre!



Funhouse Sustainability Update

Over the summer, we have been able to focus on gardening and educating the children on plant care. We were able to learn about the Indigenous plants that grow in our garden at Funhouse and how these plants can be used in everyday life. We were also able to continue to care for our tomatoes which were planted during Term 4 2021 which have gotten so big!



Evacuation & Lock-Down Rehearsal

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children in our care, we are required to rehearse our emergency and evacuation procedures every three months. As per the Education and Care Services National Regulations, we take this matter seriously. In Week 6 of each term and during each Vacation Care program, we conduct at least one emergency procedure drill. We encourage families to discuss these matters with your child/ren in order to support them.

All rostered staff and enrolled children, as well as any visitors, students, or volunteers on the day are involved in the rehearsal and while it is essential that all steps of the procedure are strictly carried out, it is conducted in a calm and educational manner.

Families can access our Lockdown Policy and Emergency and Evacuation Policy at any time, which can be found at the entrance of our Playroom in our Policy Folder. If you have any concerns or would like to know more about these procedures, please contact any of our supervisors!



Headcounts

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**.

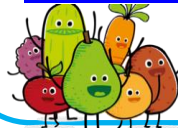
If you need to collect your child/ren urgently at these times for a particular reason, please let the staff member in the connect area know.

Funhouse Menus

All Funhouse menus have now been posted on both Xplor and our website! If you have any feedback, comments or concerns, please contact us by emailing

info@castlehillfunhouse.com.au or call us on

0423 843 917 ☺



Each term the Funhouse team takes the time to learn about mental health via the BeYou Learning online platform. The team then meet to discuss our practice. This term, we focused on the protective factors and how we can support our children in our Funhouse environment.

Protective factors decrease the likelihood of mental health issues and build and maintain resilience, even when risk factors are present. Enhancing individual, family and environmental protective factors means children are less likely to be vulnerable because they receive the acceptance, warmth and support required for learning, social and emotional development, and resilience.

Protective factors

Child

- Easy temperament
- Good social and emotional skills
- Optimistic coping style

Family

- Family harmony and stability
- Supportive parenting
- Strong family values

School

- Positive school climate that enhances belonging and connectedness

Life Events

- Involvement with caring adult
- Support available at critical times

Social

- Participation in community networks
- Access to support services
- Economic security
- Strong cultural identity and pride



Helping Children With Sensory Processing Difficulties

We've all experienced sensory overload at some point or another. We just don't stop to think about it, or give it a name. Sensory overload happens when something around us overstimulates one or more of our senses. That could be a loud TV, a crowded room, or a noisy, smelly cafeteria. There's suddenly too much information coming in through our senses for our brain to process. It's usually easy enough to escape the discomfort we're feeling. We leave the party, eat somewhere else, or walk out of the room where the TV is. And if not, we just put up with our discomfort. But overload is more intense and much harder to deal with for kids with **sensory processing issues**. Many everyday situations can trigger a response.

About sensory processing difficulties

Sensory processing difficulties are a group of symptoms and related behaviours that happen when someone has trouble taking in information from their senses and responding appropriately to it. This can be information related to sight, hearing, touch, smell and taste, or information related to internal sensations in the body, like pain and movement sensations. Some children with sensory processing difficulties might behave in unusual ways, or in ways that aren't typical for their age. Others might avoid particular activities. Most children have trouble with sensory information sometimes. But when these reactions happen frequently, or for long periods of time, they can interfere with social interaction, learning, behaviour or development.

Children with sensory processing difficulties might be:

- Oversensitive (hypersensitive) – that is, they take in too much sensory information
- Under-sensitive (hyposensitive) – that is, they take in too little sensory information.

Sensory processing difficulties affect up to 1 in 6 children.

Symptoms of sensory processing difficulties:

oversensitivity Here are some examples of behaviour that you might see if your child is oversensitive, sometimes called hypersensitive.

Sound Your child hides or runs away from common sounds like the sound of the vacuum cleaner. Or your child is hard to settle during or after noisy activities or birthday parties.

Sights Your child avoids brightly lit places or avoids looking at faces or busy spaces like walls with lots of pictures. Or your child prefers dull-coloured clothes or food.

Smell and taste Your child walks away from strong smells like perfume or eats only bland foods.

Touch Your child avoids messy play, rubs hands or fingers or holds them tightly together after touching everyday objects, or refuses to wear clothes like socks with seams on the toes.

Movement or body position Your child avoids playground equipment like swings or monkey bars, or gets upset or feels unwell in cars or on public transport.

Other internal sensations Your child is upset by changes in temperature. Your child avoids having a bath or swimming, or avoids going to the toilet because she doesn't like the feeling. Or your child is hard to settle after a minor cut or scrape.

Symptoms of sensory processing difficulties: under-sensitivity Here are some examples of behaviour that you might see if your child is under-sensitive, sometimes called hyposensitive.

Sound Your child doesn't notice noises like alarms or always wants the volume on loud.

Sights Your child likes to watch lights go on and off, or doesn't notice changes in personal details, like someone having a new haircut.

Smell and taste Your child seeks out strong smells, or likes strong tastes like salty or spicy food.

Touch Your child doesn't respond when someone taps him on the shoulder, or he fidgets a lot or drops things that are easy to hold.

Movement or body position Your child doesn't like being turned upside down or stretching a lot.

Other internal sensations Your child doesn't seem to feel pain.

Other signs of sensory processing difficulties If your child has sensory processing difficulties, you might also notice that your child gets anxious or worried in busy or unpredictable environments like parties or on public transport, finds it hard to focus, gets tired, particularly in busy environments like playgrounds and shopping centres. They may have trouble getting to sleep and staying asleep, avoid tasks that involve lots of sensory experiences, like dressing herself.

Assessment of sensory processing difficulties If you're concerned that your child has sensory processing difficulties, it's a good idea to talk with your GP. Your GP can refer your child to a health professional with expertise in sensory processing difficulties – for example, an occupational therapist, psychologist or paediatrician.

Source: Raisingchildren.net.au. (2019, November). Sensory processing difficulties. Retrieved from <https://raisingchildren.net.au/guides/a-z-health-reference/sensory-processing-difficulties>

