

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

NEWS

OCTOBER 2020



CORANGAMITE
SHIRE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your ongoing support during these past few months as we have worked together as a community to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID 19). We know it has been a challenging time for children, families, educators, teachers and staff alike.

Key dates for families

From Monday 5 October (start of term 4 relevant to the days your child would normally attend kindergarten)

Our sessional kindergarten programs will be open for all children to attend on-site. We will still follow our COVID safe plan during term 4

To support your child's return to kinder

It is very important that children are able to attend on-site as soon as possible, in line with the easing of restrictions. Having your child attending kinder in person is the best way to support their wellbeing, learning and development.

You may feel anxious about bringing your child back to our services. The advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer and the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee is that Kindergartens are low risk environments, and they can operate with the appropriate health and safety measures.

Term 4 Fee's

Children enrolled in a four year old kindergarten can attend kinder during term 4 for free.

Please note fees will still be charged for children attending in an unfunded three year old kindergarten program.

Service Closure Reminder

All Family & Children's Services will be closed on Thursday 22 October to allow staff to attend Professional Development. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.



Supporting children to develop social competence

Learning about the social world is the most complex learning children undertake. In addition to learning about social rules and expectations that can be taught or explained, to successfully negotiate the social world, children must learn to interpret a suite of hidden and subtle cues about people. Children learn to read the facial and behavioral cues of others, they learn that other people have thoughts that are different from their own, and that others' behaviors are guided by their internal thoughts and beliefs. Children learn social competence by actively engaging in the social world, through play and interactions with adults and their peers. Successfully navigating this emerging independence requires consistent and supportive adults who set boundaries and limits while also understanding and celebrating children's emerging autonomy.

Educators recognise the independence that children have practiced and developed in one environment supports them to engage with new environments. Independence and self-confidence enable children to explore new environments and adapt quickly to new settings. This supports children in their transition from home to early learning and care, to kindergarten, and to school.

Mental health and wellbeing



Corangamite Shire Council Kindergartens have reached a great milestone in September, earning the Mental Health and Wellbeing benchmark in the Victorian Government's Health Achievement Program. This is a result of hard work by educators who provide supportive learning environments.

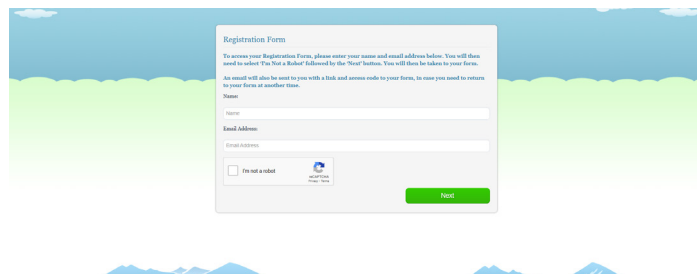
Our Early Childhood Services are continuously planning, action and review to address those health priority areas. You can see this in action everyday in the way that educators support children to make connections, collaborate with families, refer to support services and plan for learning and emotional development.

Mental health and wellbeing training was be delivered via learning modules on Beyond Blue's Be You website.

Once each service achieves the benchmarks for an area, it receives a certificate and health priority area icon sticker which we display with pride. They are a sign of our commitment to the health and wellbeing of everyone in our services. The Mental Health and Wellbeing benchmark will now be proudly displayed alongside the already recognized Sun Protection and Healthy Eating and Oral Health benchmarks.

Congratulations to all kindergarten teams.

For more information on the program, go to achievementprogram.health.vic.gov.au



Change to enrolment

Over the last year we have been working on a Central Enrolment project which migrates all of our services into the one operating platform. This allows families to only have to enroll their child once.

Our enrolment procedures have changed. Families who wish to enroll their child in any of the Corangamite Family and Children's Services programs will be asked to fill out a registration form which can be found on our website.

Once registration has been received, we can then allocate your child to a program. If you have enrolled your child in previous years your information will be updated. If you are new to our services, you will receive a link to access the online enrolment form. To access the enrolment form visit www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Community/Family-Children-Services/Enrolment-Forms

Free Webinar

Free live webinar hosted by clinical psychotherapist Heidi Rogers Wednesday 7 October at 8pm.

Returning To School: Your Parenting Playbook unpacks the tools families can use to handle anxiety associated with the resumption of classes next week, and develop a plan to best manage the rest of the school year.

Register via heidilinks.com/return-school

Staying Connected



At Skipton Kindergarten staying connected during stage 3 restrictions has meant doing things differently.

Virtual painting with a friend who is learning at home & virtual card games with Skipton Aged Care. "We continue to catch up with our elderly friends at Skipton Aged Care. Today we played a number game. The residents yelled out a number and we had to work out the corresponding amount at the kinder end. We are also teaching them some of our sign language songs. We were happy that Eve could come to our catch up virtually as well".



Treasures to be found in Simpson

Simpson walkers should be on the look out for treasures. In a project with Simpson Community house the Kindergarten children have painted stones. I'm told they will be spread around the town. Visit our facebook page to let us know where you find them.



Welcome new staff



Emily Hocking has started at the Terang Children's Centre, 3 days per week

Parenting & Wellbeing forums online

Free Online Parenting Sessions with Lou Harvey-Zahra

Colac Otway and Corangamite Child & Family Services Alliance are proud to present a series of parenting sessions brought to you by Author Lou Harvey-Zahra.

Sessions will be online (via Zoom) and free of charge. Book online to secure your place!

Terrific Toddlers

Tuesday 6 and Tuesday 13 October, 8pm – 9.30pm.

www.trybooking.com/BLPQC

Thriving Children (aimed at parents and carers of 7 - 12 year olds)

Thursday 8 and Thursday 15 October, 8pm – 9.30pm.

www.trybooking.com/BLPRG

Happy Children (aimed at parents and carers of 3 - 7 year olds)

Wednesday 21 October, Wednesday 28 October and Wednesday 4 November, 8pm - 9.30pm.

www.trybooking.com/BLPQT

FREE PARENTING SESSIONS
With Lou Harvey-Zahra

Lou Harvey-Zahra is a popular parenting author with 7 books including the bestseller *Happy Child, Happy Home!* She presents across L.A, UK and Australia and this year, Colac Otway & Corangamite Child and Family Services Alliance are happy to present her to our shires.

Over the next few months we will have sessions covering a range of topics for grouped age groups including Toddlers, 3-7 year olds and 7-12 year olds.

“After the course all my stress melted away!”

“The next day tantrums were almost none - amazing!”

Virtual Events

Women of the South West Virtual Unbound

In this virtual workshop you'll have some laughs, maybe shed a tear and leave a little lighter with some tricks for creating deeper connections with your loved ones. 18 years+ (under 18 years supervised)

Tuesday 13 October 7.00pm

Register for this free event at

<https://www.tomorrowwoman.com.au/events>



Blokes of the South West Virtual Lock In

Join us in this virtual workshop. Have some laughs, talk about what's going on right now and leave a little lighter with some tools to help you check in with your mates to go beyond the banter. 18 years+ (under 18 years supervised)

Thursday 15 October 7.00pm

Register for this free event at

<https://www.tomorrowman.com.au/events>



Does your child have Autism?

Early Days is a series of FREE workshops for parents and other family members of young children (0-7 years) who are on the autism spectrum. They are also suitable for parents who feel their child may be on the spectrum but have not received a formal diagnosis.

Progression to School Workshop for Parents

Part 1: Thursday 8th October 2020: 9.30 – 11.00am

Part 2: Friday 9th October 2020: 9.30 – 11.00am

**must attend all workshops*

My Child and Autism Workshop for Parents

Part 1: Wednesday 28th October 2020: 9.30 – 11.00am

Part 2: Thursday 29th October 2020: 9.30 – 11.00am

Part 3: Wednesday 4th November 2020: 9.30 – 11.00am

**must attend all workshops*

For more information about this workshop or other workshops and to register

<https://www.amaze.org.au/support/early-days/>

Recruitment Family Day Care Educators

Council is recruiting educators in nearly every Shire location.

Can you help?

Do you know anyone who is looking for a great job working from home?

Great opportunities for home-based employment for suitably qualified early childhood educator wanting a change from the rush of centre based care or someone who is working towards a qualification in early childhood education and care and wants to gain experience while studying and earning an income.

Encourage your relatives or friends to contact Christine Dewhurst on 5593 7149.

Coming Up

4 Oct | Odd Sock day

11 - 17 Oct | Anti Poverty week

17 Oct | Eradication of Poverty day

15- 21 Oct | October National Nutrition week

22 Oct | Professional Development day- all services closed

23 Oct | Grand Final Eve (public holiday)

24 Oct -1 Nov | National Children's Week

30 October | Day for Daniel, Child Safety Day

Vacancies

Contact the Family & Children's Services team on 5593 7100 to enquire. There are currently places available at:

Mobile Child Care in Port Campbell
Friday 10 am-3 pm

Mobile Child Care at The Sisters
Wednesday 10 am-3 pm

Family Day Care

Monday - Camperdown & Terang

Wednesday - Cobden

Thursday - Terang

Friday - Timboon



With spring comes a change in the weather and increased UV index. It's time to find a broad brim hat to add to your child's bag.

The skin on your face, ears and neck is much thinner and more sensitive to UV damage. Choose a hat that provides good shade to your face, head, neck and ears. Sun protection is recommended when UV levels are 3 (Moderate) or higher. UV radiation isn't like the sun's light or heat, which we can see and feel. You can download the FREE Sunsmart app from either Google Play or App store.



Corangamite Shire Family & Children's Services

Connect with us   

www.corangamite.vic.gov.au

www.facebook.com/cschildrenservices/

www.facebook.com/CorangamiteShire/

www.twitter.com/CorangamiteSC

www.instagram.com/corangamiteshire/

Policies

Family and Children's Services polices are available at www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Policies

Feedback

Your opinion is important to us, click on this link to provide feedback on the service:

www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Contact/Feedback

Info book

Available at: www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Enrol

