

# FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

# NEWS

JUNE 2020



CORANGAMITE  
SHIRE

family & children's services

## Free child care Information for families from Services Australia

Dear families,

In response to COVID-19, child care is free. This means Centrelink is not currently paying Child Care Subsidy (CCS).

If you were getting CCS before 6 April 2020, you won't need to do anything for it to start again when the free child care period ends.

If you recently started using child care, you should find out about CCS.

### What is CCS?

CCS helps with the cost of approved child care. Centrelink pays this subsidy directly to your child care provider to reduce the fees you pay.

### Who can get it?

To get CCS you need to meet [certain requirements](#).

Centrelink will also consider your circumstances to work out [how much you can get](#).

### How do I apply?

If you want to get CCS when it starts again, and haven't already applied, you should [submit your claim](#) now.

Find out more about [CCS if you're new to child care](#) on the [Services Australia website](#).



## KINDERGARTEN

### Register now for 2021

Does your child turn three or four  
by 30 April 2021?

Places for four year old available now.

Register your interest for up to  
15 hours of three year old.

Timboon, Skipton, Terang, Cobden,  
Simpson and Western Plains in 2021.

Register online at  
[www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/register](http://www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/register)  
before Friday 26 June

Contact us on 5593 7100 or email  
[familychildrenservices@corangamite.vic.gov.au](mailto:familychildrenservices@corangamite.vic.gov.au)  
for more information.

# ONLINE VIDEOS FOR FAMILIES

# TIMBOON MAT TIME ONLINE



Maternal Child Health Nurses Supporting a Healthy Well Corangamite project has started on the Family & Children's Service Facebook page.

It will help stay in touch and support families, especially during COVID-19. Chris Towers has been filming each of the Maternal Child Health Nurses who will introduce themselves and provide parenting information. In the coming weeks there will be information on many parenting topics as well as healthy cooking and exercise sessions.

**For more information please contact Chris (Tuesdays) or Leanne on 5593 7126.**



Timboon Kindergarten children who were learning from home joined their friends virtually for morning mat time. Kindergarten Teacher Leesa O'Grady and Assistant Terriane Stansfield sent their families a link so they could join at home.

They did not need to download any software and could join from any device with a camera and microphone. Three out of our four families attended over teams. Staff have been using Kinderloop to share what children have been learning each day, with videos of story books, songs, yoga and activity ideas. Children learning from home receive the same task as their friends at kinder. Families have given very positive feedback about the program provided on Kinderloop and the mat session.



**For more information, please contact Leesa on 5598 3248.**

## CONNECT WITH US Corangamite Shire Family & Children's Services

[www.corangamite.vic.gov.au](http://www.corangamite.vic.gov.au)

[www.facebook.com/cschildrengservices/](https://www.facebook.com/cschildrengservices/)

[www.facebook.com/CorangamiteShire/](https://www.facebook.com/CorangamiteShire/)

[twitter.com/CorangamiteSC](https://twitter.com/CorangamiteSC)

[www.instagram.com/corangamiteshire/](https://www.instagram.com/corangamiteshire/)



## FEEDBACK

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

[www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Contact/Feedback](http://www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Contact/Feedback)



# TALKING ABOUT WELLBEING



Our team embraced the opportunity to join a School Readiness Funding (SRF) coaching session with well-respected early childhood professionals Catharine Hydon and Gilda Howard.

'Wellbeing' is this year's focus for SRF projects, and the approach of each kindergarten program reflects their children, families, communities and staff. It was the first time the group has come together using Teams.

Catharine and Gilda have been working with each kindergarten individually and recently facilitated the second group workshop. Themes discussed were building relationships, learning about emotions, problem solving, managing conflict, feeling good about what you can do and cooperation. Educators talked about the importance of keeping connections with children and families, and children's resilience, responsiveness, self-regulation and capacity building.

These qualities are not just relatable to the children but have been very evident within the team as educators work as front-line staff continuing to provide flexible and innovative learning opportunities. While COVID-19 has given us many challenges, educators shared several positives for children's wellbeing; there has been more individualised one to one time, children have been adaptable to change, and resilience and independence skills have been strengthened. As we come out of the restrictions, we have an opportunity to reflect on practice that will continue to improve 'wellbeing' outcomes for children, families, communities and staff.



## A new road system at Ecklin Child Care

Korbin & Harrison headed off driving in different directions. There was some talk of driving to Melbourne. I think the boys are missing trips in the car during isolation.



# COBDEN KINDER



Cobden Kinder children start every day outside for the first couple of hours!

As educators we know that this is of great benefit to children's wellbeing. It allows them to ease into the session at their own pace, including those who experience anxiety or have high energy levels. It is a great place for friendships and learning to blossom.

With the lovely autumn days, we are sometimes staying outside for the full 5-hour session. This has allowed for extended time to investigate and solve problems, and for educators to support learning threads. In the sandpit there has been much extension and cooperative play with setting up of work sites, quarries, dams and pipe work! This has translated into some amazing paintings and box construction, as well as research through books and videos.

# FAMILY DAY CARE COBDEN



**LEFT:** Laura Clarke enjoys playing with the autumn leaves.

**BELOW:** Oakley Parlour and Braxton Barden keep in touch with what's going on in their environment with a hose phone



## SERVICES RECOGNISED

**Twenty-one Early Childhood Services and Family Day Care Educators in Corangamite have received a Smiles 4 Miles award.**

The award recognises their work to improve the oral health of some of our youngest community members.

Smiles 4 Miles is an oral health promotion program for kindergarten-aged children, developed by Dental Health Services Victoria.

Services achieve the Smiles 4 Miles award by implementing healthy eating and oral health policies, and engaging with families about the importance of oral health.

They educate children through a variety of fun learning experiences based on the Smiles 4 Miles key messages –  
Drink well, Eat well and Clean well.



Eliza Ogden, Smiles 4 Miles Coordinator, said the program was a great way to help children have healthy teeth and gums for life.

“By promoting good oral health behaviours early in life, we can decrease the likelihood of poor oral health later in life.



# COMING UP

**Monday 8 June:** Queen's Birthday

**Monday 15 June:** World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

**17-23 June:** Refugee Week

**Friday 26 June:** Kindergarten 2021 enrolments close

**Monday 29 June:** International Mud Day

## POLICIES:

Family and Children's Services policies are available at [www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Policies](http://www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Policies)

## INFO BOOK:

Available at: [www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Enrol](http://www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Enrol)



## Family Day Care Educator Noorat, Terang or Camperdown


We are looking for a Family Day Care Educator in Noorat, Terang or Camperdown who would like to look after two children from one family three days a week.

Qualification is not immediately required however the successful applicant would have to be prepared to enrol and commence study. Applicants are invited to contact Christine Dewhurst on 0438 393 649 or email a resume and letter of application to [familydaycare@corangamite.vic.gov.au](mailto:familydaycare@corangamite.vic.gov.au)

# Maternal & Child Health



 Still immunising

 Consultations via phone

Call us on 1800 552 902 for appointments

For general advice call Maternal Child Health line 13 22 29



## STORY TIME WITH CHRIS GSTREIN



Early years services including Kerrie Fortescue's Family Day Care group in Terang (below) joined in as Chris read live on Facebook for National Simultaneous Story time.

He read *'Whitney & Britney Chicken Divas'* by Australian author Lucinda Gifford.

Thanks to Chris & Councillor Ruth Gstrein.

