

# Bermagui Preschool Newsletter – May 5<sup>th</sup> 2023



## 2023/2024 Important Dates:

King's Birthday Public Holiday (Preschool CLOSED):	Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> Jun
End of Term 2:	Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> Jun
Winter Vacation Care Program:	Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jul to Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> Jul
Start of Term 3:	Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> Jul
End of Term 3:	Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sep
Spring Vacation Care Program:	Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> Sep to Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct
Labour Day Public Holiday (Preschool CLOSED):	Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct
Start of Term 4:	Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> Oct
End of Term 4:	Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Staff Development & CHRISTMAS CLOSURE:	Thu 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec to Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2024
Summer Vacation Care Program:	Tue 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan 2024 to Thu 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2024
Australia Day Public Holiday (Preschool CLOSED):	Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2024
Staff Development Day (Preschool CLOSED):	Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2024
Preschool Orientation Day:	Tue 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2024
(Children and families invited for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour orientation & re-enrolment session)	
Start of Term 1 - 2024:	Wed 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2024

## What's On at Preschool...

With Mother's Day just around the corner it is a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon and celebrate the diversity of our fabulous families. The simple activity of making a Mother's Day present and card probably doesn't cause you any surprise. But if you are a pre-schooler with two dads or a toddler living with an aunty or a child in a blended family then these familiar activities are painting pictures—and parameters—of what a family looks like. Make no mistake, families with one mum and one dad are wonderful. But other family structures are wonderful as well. When children know their family looks different to the activities and stories represented, they can feel excluded or confused about where they fit in and if their family counts. Child theorist Kurtz suggests "Celebrating the beauty in our differences helps to build a stronger community, diminishes prejudice or fear and enriches our society by creating global citizens in our children. You're teaching children about respect for others."

At Bermagui Preschool we created space in our art studio where children can make choices about card making and gift giving for those people they loved in their families. In the dramatic play area, dolls house and book corner we shared activities that celebrated family diversity as well as challenging gender stereo types. We followed up with stories, games and conversations about our own families and the families of others. In the Bungaree room the children enjoyed an excursion to Frame and Brush to purchase fabric pens to decorate calico bags, while in the Bidhu room the children worked with Ashton's Mum, Naomi, to make a special gift for our mums and/or loved ones (see below for further details).

## Pedestrian Crossing:

Our Board of Directors are working on a project to raise awareness and improve strategies for safe pedestrian crossing in Bermagui. The particular focus is on providing safe pedestrian crossing to Bermagui's All Ability Playground at Apex Park on Lamont Street. We are asking families to please email us any information that might support this project. This might include photos of you and your child/ren trying to cross Lamont Street, quick stories/anecdotes that you have had highlighting your personal experiences of road crossing, letters of concerns or suggestions that we can use to stress our concerns and community needs. Any information can be emailed to us at [bermikids@hotmail.com](mailto:bermikids@hotmail.com). Alternatively you may like to have a chat with our board members Ella Sayers and Claire Wheaton or our preschool staff. Thank you for your support.

## Strategies to Support Challenging Behaviour in Children

Young children experience a range of emotions and express themselves in many different ways. It's normal for toddlers and young children to have tantrums and break rules while their social and emotional skills are developing. It's important that families and our preschool teachers/educators work together to provide support while children are developing and learning to manage their own emotions. Guiding children and encouraging positive behaviours will help them learn appropriate emotional and social behaviour.

Some behaviours that families commonly find challenging include:

- defiance (e.g. refusing to follow your requests)
- fussiness (e.g. refusal to eat certain foods or wear certain clothes)
- hurting other people (e.g. biting, kicking)
- excessive anger when the child doesn't get their own way
- tantrums

Key points to remember

- It's normal for toddlers and young children to have tantrums and break rules while their social and emotional skills are developing.
- Ignoring, distraction and encouraging empathy can help discourage negative behaviours.
- Positive reinforcement and focusing on your child's positive behaviour is the best way to guide your child's behaviour.
- Setting rules and being consistent with age-appropriate consequences is important.
- Punishing your child with physical discipline (e.g. smacking), shouting or isolation can be harmful and should be avoided.

Sometimes, ongoing challenging behaviour can indicate other health issues or an underlying developmental, social or emotional problem. If you are concerned about your child, see your GP.

## Help To Understand CCS Changes

Families can now use the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) Calculator on [StartingBlocks.gov.au](https://startingblocks.gov.au) to see what their subsidy rates may be from 10 July 2023. Most families will get more subsidy, and some families previously not eligible will be able to get it. For more information about how to update your family income estimate, visit <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/your-family-income-estimate-for-family-assistance-payments>

**Changes to Child Care Subsidy**

From 10 July 2023, there are changes to the way we work out your Child Care Subsidy entitlement. Child care will be cheaper for most families.

**What you need to know**

- The maximum amount of CCS is increasing from 85% to 90% for families earning up to \$80,000.
- The income limit for CCS is increasing to \$530,000.
- If you earn over \$80,000, your CCS percentage will go down by 1% for each \$5,000 of income your family earns. You'll either get more subsidy or have no change to your entitlement. The CCS percentage you're entitled to depends on your family's income.

For more information about CCS, go to [servicesaustralia.gov.au/changes-if-you-get-family-payments](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/changes-if-you-get-family-payments)

**Families with more than one child aged 5 or under**

From 10 July 2023, if you have more than one child aged 5 or under you can still get a higher rate for one or more of your children.

**If you get Additional Child Care Subsidy**

If you get Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS) your rates will stay the same.

From 10 July 2023, the low income limit for ACCS Transition to Work (TTW) will increase to \$80,000. Your family will still need to meet other ACCS TTW eligibility requirements.

**What you need to do from January to June 2023**

In most cases, you don't need to do anything to get the increased rate. If you get CCS, we'll apply changes to your CCS automatically from 10 July 2023.

**Updating your family income estimate**

The amount of CCS you get is calculated using your family income estimate. It's important to make sure that you check your income estimate regularly and update it if your circumstances change.

If you get CCS or if you're already assessed for CCS but get 0%, you may be eligible for an increased rate. Check your family income estimate is up to date so you get the right amount from 10 July 2023.

You can check or update your income estimate at any time using:

- your Centrelink online account through [my.gov.au](https://my.gov.au)
- the Express Plus Centrelink mobile app
- the myGov app.

For more information about how to update your family income estimate, go to [servicesaustralia.gov.au/familyincomeestimate](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/familyincomeestimate)

**CHANGES TO CHILD CARE SUBSIDY**

**Making a claim for CCS**

From 10 July 2023 the income limit for CCS is increasing to \$530,000. This means that more families will be entitled to CCS to reduce their child care costs.

If you want to check your eligibility for CCS, you can make a claim using your Centrelink online account through myGov or your Express Plus Centrelink mobile app.

If you make a claim and it's assessed before 10 July 2023, you may be assessed at 0% if your income is over \$356,756. Your new rate of CCS will automatically apply to you from 10 July 2023.

You can make a claim for CCS any time using:

- your Centrelink online account through [my.gov.au](https://my.gov.au)
- the Express Plus Centrelink mobile app
- the myGov app.

For more information about how to claim CCS, go to [servicesaustralia.gov.au/how-to-claim-child-care-subsidy](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/how-to-claim-child-care-subsidy)

**What's happening from 10 July 2023**

If you already get CCS or made a claim, you don't need to do anything to get the increased rate. We'll apply changes to your CCS automatically from 10 July 2023.

Your new rate of CCS will show in your online account from 10 July 2023 through myGov. Select **My family** from the Menu, then **Family assistance**, followed by **Child Care Subsidy Summary** to view your rate.

You can also use your Express Plus Centrelink mobile app. Select **Child Care Subsidy**, then **Children assessed** to view your rate from 10 July 2023.

## 2023 Influenza Vaccination

The Influenza Vaccine is free for all children aged 6 months to less than 5 years. For further information visit your local health professional or visit [health.gov.au/flv](https://health.gov.au/flv)


## Policy Update

Services are legally required to ensure families are notified of any changes to policies which affect: the service's provision of education and care to any enrolled child or a family's ability to use the service; fees; or fee collection procedures, 14 days in advance. (Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011). Bermagui Preschool is currently reviewing the **Bermagui Preschool Philosophy, Aims of the Service, Students, Volunteers, Visitors and Work Experience Policy, Risk Assessment Matrix**. Copies of the existing policy are available on our website and the proposed Policies are available on request at Preschool for families to review and provide feedback. Please see Narelle for further information.

## Philosophy Review

Bermagui Preschool's philosophy is an important and key document for our service. Regularly reviewing our philosophy ensures it meets the needs of our Preschool and all current stakeholders. With changes in children and families at our Preschool, as well as our educators, leadership and management, it is essential that the philosophy remains a 'living' document. A review provides the opportunity to stop, reflect, and rethink about 'what we do and why we do it'. It also enables any new developments and opportunities to be considered, such as new research to inform practice, changes in legislation, professional development opportunities, changes to policies and procedures, and conversations between educators, children and families. Below is a copy of our current philosophy. Any suggestions, thoughts or comments would be welcomed and can be forwarded by email, the comment box at the front of Preschool or a chat with our educators. Your input is greatly appreciated.

**BERMAGUI  
PRESCHOOL**



**1.01 Philosophy Statement**

**Written By** Children, Families & Staff

**Aim** A statement of philosophy is developed and guides all aspects of the service's operations (NQS 7.2.1)

**Philosophy**

Play is essential in the lives of young children. We believe play should be fun, exciting, spontaneous, hands-on, stimulating, relaxing, comforting, challenging and allow children to "just be children". We believe it is important to provide opportunities for children to experiment, discover, explore, create, investigate, practice theories, solve problems and express ideas with the support of other children and the educators. We believe in celebrating children's play, discoveries and learning through reflection and meaningful documentation.

Children are capable, resourceful and valued members of the community. We believe children should be encouraged and supported to follow their learning interests with the support of the preschool community. We believe that play is essential to children's learning and that children learn most effectively within an unhurried environment with meaningful, authentic experiences. We believe young children bring delight and make a valuable contribution to the community and to the world.

Children should be encouraged and supported to make their own decisions and choices and seek to actively develop positive problem solving skills in a success-orientated environment. We believe in providing children with opportunities to discover and learn about themselves, others and the environment in an atmosphere that encourages harmonious and meaningful relationships.

It is important to provide a beautiful environment, a place of wonder, order and peace. We endeavour to provide an enchanting environment filled with art, music, dance, literacy and beauty, that inspires joy, encourages curiosity and instils in each child a sense of aesthetic awareness that promotes creativity and expression. We believe in nourishing the children's and educator's soul, creativity and imagination.

A sense of wonder, belonging to and love of the land, nature and animals are critical for young children to develop lifelong respectful, positive and proactive attitudes to our environment and to ensure our sustainable future. We believe in giving children time to play outdoors every day. We believe in the rights of children to be able to feel the land beneath their feet, the sun on their face, experience the natural rhythms of the seasons and breathe fresh air. We believe this is essential to everyone's wellbeing and development. We believe in nurturing and protecting our most precious gifts – our children and our planet.

Each child, family and educator is a unique and valued individual. We value and honour diversity and accept and celebrate differences in other people. We believe each person and their family's values, culture, beliefs, abilities and language should be acknowledged and accepted and reflected in the preschool's environment.

We believe in building a community that values children, respects their rights and gives them love. We believe in building a community that enables children to develop a readiness for the transition to school and more meaningful, a readiness for life.

**1.01**

Each individual has a story to tell and by sharing these stories we create relationships and bonds that strengthen and unite us. Learning is enhanced in an environment where you feel you belong. We believe in developing respectful relationships with children, families and staff through open and meaningful communication. We encourage and support children to interact peacefully and collaboratively, express empathy for other and actively challenge bias and promote social justice.

We believe in supporting and developing a partnership with families to share the nurturing and education of their children. We encourage each family to participate in the preschool community and support and welcome their interest and involvement. Our programming and decision-making processes will be guided by the Early Years Learning Framework (2009), National Quality Framework (2010) and other current documents related to Early Childhood Education Best Practice.

Our community are the children, their families, the educators and all people and services the preschool has made connections with since our establishment in 1975. We believe as part of this community, we have a responsibility to our children and families to establish and maintain a sense of belonging and connection to the land and to our shared Aboriginal history and culture, to actively embrace reconciliation and spread this message. We believe our role is to our engage the Djirranj People of the Yuin Nation in a collaborative authentic partnership with our preschool.

We believe in advocating for the rights of children by promoting awareness of the importance of early childhood education, children's services and issues relating to young children and their families.

We believe in providing acceptance and support to promote the children's, families' and educator's personal growth and develop their positive self-esteem and confidence. We believe that our staff need to work together to provide a pleasant, calm and smooth running environment, where continuity of care is assured and relationships are encouraged and strengthened through mutual respect. We will endeavour to work together to share duties and responsibilities, maintain high levels of supervision, care, safety and hygiene. We will acknowledge our individual strengths and weaknesses. We believe to continuous improvement of practice and skills through ongoing reflection, updating qualifications and knowledge through study, reading and attendance at workshops.

**Relevant Legislation** Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011  
National Quality Standards 7.2.1

**Resources & References** Education and Care National Regulations  
The National Quality Standard (2010)  
Being, Belonging and Becoming: The Early Years Framework for Australia (2009)  
Early Childhood Australia's Code of Ethics  
Bermagui Preschool Policies

**Relevant Documentation** This philosophy is displayed in the Preschool and will be provided as part of Bermagui Preschool Induction Procedure. It is available in the Parent Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Staff Handbook and on the Preschool website

**Date Adopted:** July 2019

**Review Date:** July 2022

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## Moodji Update

With Costa coming back to visit Preschool again and our Moodji Futures Dinner and Workshops later in the week, we are all getting very excited. The children have been busy making table runners to help decorate the tables for the dinner for the grown-ups tonight. We have also been busy harvesting vegetables so Kelly Eastwood can make a delicious 3 course dinner for tonight and yummy soup for Saturday's workshops. The Moodji Farm is also looking wonderful as we help tidy and tend to the garden, worms, chickens and compost.

For more information about the wonderful community events coming up please contact Moodji Project Manager Dan Bakker on 0427 746980 or email [eatdirtpermaculture@gmail.com](mailto:eatdirtpermaculture@gmail.com)

A reminder to also check your emails (Educate/HubHello and newsletter), the noticeboards at the front of Preschool and follow Bermagui Preschool's Facebook page to stay in touch with what's happening at Preschool.

## Thankyou 😊:

- Ashton's mum, Naomi, for helping us to make beautiful Kokodama natural twine plant gifts for our mothers and families. If you would like further information about these beautiful gifts or if you would like to purchase one for your own family or friends, you can visit "The Twine Garden" on both Instagram and Facebook or email [thetwinegardenn@gmail.com](mailto:thetwinegardenn@gmail.com). A selection of the Kokodama's are available at Markets on Lamont, Bermagui. Naomi is running a Kokodama workshop at Cobargo School of Arts Hall on Saturday 27th May.



*Happy Mother's Day to all our fabulous mums and mother figures for Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May*

