

MAKING IT EASIER

Re-Enrolment Process for 2010

Legislative requirements no longer require us to complete a full re-enrolment process each year. There is, however, a requirement for us to check that we have the latest information, including immunisation, on file for every child in care. For us to satisfy this requirement we will provide families with a printout of their current enrolment and it will then be the parents' responsibility to check that the information is correct and advise us of any changes.

Our centres at Amy Road, St Mary's, Scottsdale and Bicheno will go through this process towards the end of this year and we will combine this with a booking form for you to note your 2010 care requirements. Any changes to enrolments, including up to date immunisation information, can be provided to your centre director who will ensure that we receive the information.

For families using Family Day Care and In Home Care, this process will take place in March 2010 after school resumes and care requirements settle. Printouts of current enrolments will be provided to your carer who will ask you to check the details. Any changes, including up to date immunisation information, can be provided to your carer who will ensure that we receive the information.

The important change to note is that all **Enrolments will remain current.** The Child Care Management System advises us when a child has not been in care for a period of 182 days (26 weeks) and it is at this stage we will exit a child's enrolment.



4th Annual "Art Tastic" Exhibition

Our week long Children's Art Exhibition "Art Tastic" will be held during Children's Week this year. For more information about this exciting event, please turn to **Page three.**

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Scottsdale Child Care Centre



Scottsdale Child Care Centre is licensed for 20 children per day and is currently experiencing a high demand for care. The centre employs 3 permanent and 4 casual staff who are all residents of the Dorset Community and take great pride in having a centre with lots of settled and happy children.

The staff and children at the centre recently took part in a Get Walking Tasmania Excursion with everyone enjoying a walk to the local park. Forthcoming events for the centre include Teddy Bears Picnic, Tas Bash and RSPCA visit.



St Marys Child Care Centre

St Marys Child Care welcomed a number of new families to our centre recently. All of the children are settling in well and have been keen to participate in all aspects of our program.

Thank you to all families who were able to complete a survey for the centre's Quality Assurance process. We value all of the feedback we receive from families. We have had a date set for a national validator to visit, sometime between 7th October and 17th November. This is an important aspect of the Quality Assurance process and represents the final step before moderation of all results.

Unfortunately, the weather has not been kind to us this spring, with many cooler days. We still try to take the children out where possible. They will need to have their own roll on sunscreen and broad brimmed hat, as the UV even on cloudy days can be high.

We were able to participate in an excursion to the relaunched Building Blocks play and learn sessions. These are fantastic opportunities for children to play and learn, while families can access up to date information on parenting issues from the friendly workers Kandi and Rachel. Our children had a great time as the photos show!

Coming up later this term, we will be walking for Get Walking Week, celebrating Children's Week with some fantastic art work on show and "digging up" some produce from our veggie bed.

*Tanya Greenwood
Centre Director
St Marys Child Care Centre*



Art Tastic is Fantastic



NCN's Annual Art exhibition "Art Tastic" will once again be held during Children's Week, from Monday 26th October until Friday 30th October, at 59D Amy Road, Newstead.

Our official opening will be on Wednesday 28th October at 6.30pm. If you wish to attend please phone our office.

All children, 0 to 16 years, are invited to submit some of their fabulous art work to be displayed. Entry is \$2 and forms are available on our website www.ncn.org.au or by phoning reception on 6341 1555. Proceeds from this event will be donated to The Alannah and Madeline Foundation.

Last year we displayed over 300 great pieces and we hope to have just as many this year.



Josie Singline creating her Art Tastic masterpiece

Proudly supporting

**The Alannah
and Madeline
Foundation**

Keeping children safe from violence



Christmas Vacation Care Program

Amy Road Vacation Care Program again promises a fun and exciting program that will keep all the children involved and active over their Summer Holiday period.

Our programs will again include 2 weekly excursions around Tasmania and 3 in house days. Children will be able to participate and become involved in activities throughout the day. Each day will have a theme and we may have special guests invited to come along to show us new and exciting things to do and learn. Of course there will be the old favorite games, sports, arts/craft and cooking activities on offer each day.

We provide healthy morning and afternoon teas and parents are asked to provide lunch for their children unless stated in the program. Amy Road Program will be out to parents by mid November 2009.

Opening dates and times for Amy Road Vacation Care:

18 December to 24 December 2009.

Closed over Christmas and New Year.

Re-opening on 4 January until 8 February 2010.

Opening hours are 8.00am to 6.00pm daily.

Christmas Parade 2010

Just a quick reminder to all families that NCN will be participating in this year's Launceston Christmas Parade.

If you would like to help the small group of volunteers to organise the day please phone Tracy on 63 411555 or email tnish@ncn.org.au

The theme for this year is 'The Spirit of Christmas'. We will be endeavouring to have a fabulous float on the day, so look out for us and give us a wave as we pass by.

When - 28th November 2009 at 11.00am in the Launceston CBD.



Opening dates and times for East Coast Vacation Care:

21 December to 24 December 2009.

Closed for Christmas and New Year.

Reopening on 4 January to 5 February 2010.

Parents are asked to provide all meals and snacks for children throughout the day. If any parents or child have ideas on where to visit during the vacation care period please let us know. Where would your child like to go or what would your child like to do in their vacation?

If you know of anyone with a talent, be it playing an instrument, perform dancing or teaching new art and craft ideas, please let us know. We are always looking to provide new and different activities to the children

Maggie Wilson
OSHC Co-ordinator

Christmas Closures

Scottsdale Child Care Centre

Last day of care, Tuesday 22 December
Re-opens Monday 25 January 2010

St Marys Child Care Centre

Last day of care, Wednesday 23 December
Re-opens Friday 22 January 2010

Amy Road After School & Vacation Care

Last day of care, Thursday 24 December
Re-opens Monday 4 January 2010

NCN Head Office

Close of business, 12.30pm on 24 December
Re-opens 8.30am Monday 4 January 2010

Are you eligible for JET or 24 Hour Care?

JET - If you are on an income support payment you may be able to get JET Child Care fee assistance.

JET Child Care fee assistance supports many activities up to a limited amount of time which varies from activity to activity.

For further information on your eligibility for JET Child Care fee assistance please contact the Family Assistance Office on 13 61 50 between 8am and 8pm (local time) Monday to Friday or visit www.familyassist.gov.au

24 Hour Care - A child is considered to be in 24 hour care if he or she does not return to the care and supervision of their parent or guardian for any time during a 24 hour period. This includes children attending school or other approved child care where the school hours plus the care provided before and after school comprise a period of 24 hours or more if the service is the school's contact.

A 24 hour period may commence at any time during the day or night. Sometimes families may require short-term 24 hour care. Reasons may include work related demands or short term emergencies.

It is not possible to list all the circumstances in which a family would meet the criteria for exceptional circumstances. **Each application is considered on its merits.** Exceptional circumstances could include situations such as hospitalisation; short-term physical incapacity or voluntary work associated with an emergency or disaster (such as bush fires, storms or floods).

For more information, please contact NCN on 6341 1555.

Check out our website and let us know what you think. Your feedback is appreciated.

www.ncn.org.au

Why do I have to sign a contract with my carer?

Contracts are designed to provide both carers and parents with clear information concerning the care of a child/ren. They should be completed after discussion between both parties and can be amended at anytime should circumstances change. NCN's enrolment policy states that any parents enrolling in Family Day Care and/or In Home Care must complete a parent/carer agreement on commencing care.

Parents should note the following:

- You must read and understand the contract before signing it.
- If you would like help with understanding the contract, administration staff at NCN are available to assist you.
- This contract is a legal document and you will be charged for the contracted hours of care listed.
- If you only require care on a casual basis your contract should state this.
- If you work on a rotating roster system, your roster should be attached to the contract, together with a letter from your employer confirming your employment on a roster basis.
- If, as part of your employment, you have a rostered day off and you will not be requiring care on this day, a letter from your employer stating this is required.
- Contracts are in triplicate, one copy for you, one for the carer and one for NCN admin.



- If your circumstances change or you find you are contracted and paying for more hours than you are using, you should discuss amending the contract with your carer.
- If your carer is not willing to renegotiate hours or unable to provide the hours of care you require, you can contact the customer service officers at NCN to discuss other care options available.
- If you make a decision to change carers your contract will state how much notice you must give to your existing carer.

All NCN policies are available for public viewing at the NCN office or on our website (once you register) www.ncn.org.au

NCN Christmas Toy Fundraiser Catalogues

We hope that you have had a chance to browse the two Christmas toy fundraiser catalogues given to you by your child care provider.

These catalogues offer great toys at competitive prices, which often are not available locally through stores.

NCN earns 20% of all sales to purchase new resources for the toy library, playgroup, outside school hours care program and our two child care centres. Please have your order placed with us by early November to guarantee Christmas delivery. If you have not received a copy, or would like more copies, please phone Northern Children's Network on 63 411 555.