

# NEWSLETTER

Apr-Jun 2020 Edition

## Important Dates

### APRIL

- 5th Sunday: Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 10th Friday: Good Friday
- 11th Saturday: Easter Saturday
- 12th Sunday: Easter Sunday
- 13th Monday: Easter Monday
- 25th Saturday: ANZAC Day

### MAY

- 10th Sunday: Mother's Day
- 26th Tuesday: National Sorry Day

### JUNE

- 8th Monday: Queen's Birthday



## Coronavirus in the news

Dear Educators and Families,

According to nearly all predictive models, 2020 will be the year of coronavirus. It will likely be the defining feature that permeates its way through all parts of our life, including work, school, major events, economy and sport. It will touch all of our lives.

For an issue as serious as this, access to accurate and timely information is more important than ever.

Please take the time to stay informed from government's latest warnings and best advice to prepare and put us in the strongest position to recover, look after yourselves and take care of each other.

# Information and advice for Early Childhood Education and Care Services

Federal, State and Territory departments are supporting services, and here are several reliable sources of information for educators and parents:



## The Department of Health website

[www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au) is the go-to website for COVID-19 advice, information and resources. The Australian government publishes health alerts, practical guidance and up-to-date news, and its Facebook and Twitter accounts report developments as they happen.



## The National Coronavirus Health Information Line

This 24/7 phone service provides health and situation information on the outbreak. Just call 1800 020 080 (or 131 450 for translating or interpreting services).



## New South Wales Department of Health

It provide dependable localised COVID-19 information. [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)



## The Department of Education, Skills and Employment website

[www.employment.gov.au](http://www.employment.gov.au)



## The Federal Government's FAQ

[www.education.gov.au/childcare-FAQ](http://www.education.gov.au/childcare-FAQ)

It contains information about COVID-19 and child care, and their fact sheets are helpful too. Provided they've signed up, ECEC services are also receiving COVID-19 communications from the Department.



## The World Health Organization website

[www.who.int](http://www.who.int) contains current global news, with public advice, situation updates and media resources.



# COVID-19 and child care payments for families

- The Child Care Subsidy (CCS) and Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS) can only be paid where services are open and providing care (with the exception of public holidays or where a local emergency has been declared).
- If your child care service is open, but your family is experiencing temporary financial hardship (e.g., you can't work because of the COVID-19 outbreak), then the Additional Child Care Subsidy may help. Provided your family meets eligibility criteria, it can pay for up to 100 hours of child care per fortnight, for up to 13 weeks.
- If you take your child out of care as a precautionary measure against potential contact with COVID-19, then the CCS can be paid for up to 42 absence days, per child, per year without you having to show documentation. Your child doesn't need to be ill – you can simply make the decision to keep them home and get help paying for the fees you're liable for. If more absences are required for children for COVID-19 related reasons, they can be taken as additional absences without the need for medical evidence (20 extra allowable absences for the 2019-20 financial year)
- If a service closes because of COVID-19, then your family won't be charged any fees.
- If your child is excluded, or you choose to keep them home from care, then it's up to your individual ECEC service to decide whether or not to charge you child care fees.

*There is a lot of information available about COVID-19, and it's important to do your research and keep up-to-date with the rapid developments.*

#StopTheSpread

Talking to your kids about the

# Coronavirus

Don't be afraid to talk about the coronavirus.

Most children would have heard about the virus or seen people wearing masks. This is your opportunity to keep them informed and set the tone.

Focus on what they can do to keep safe.

Help your kids feel empowered by teaching them what they can do to keep safe. Show them how to wash their hands or how to sneeze properly.

Manage your own anxiety.

When you notice yourself feeling anxious, take time to calm down before trying to have a conversation or answering your child's questions.

Be developmentally appropriate.

Try answering their questions instead of volunteering too much information as this might be overwhelming.

Stick to Routine.

School might have been shut down so it's up to you to keep your kid's day structured. Create and stick to schedules for mealtime, study and play.

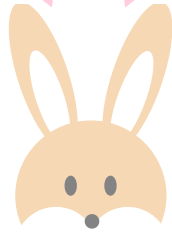
Let them talk about their worries.

Be open and invite them to discuss what they may have heard and how they feel.

Sources:

[www.who.int](http://www.who.int)





# Happy Easter!

• WITH LOVE FROM POLARIS •

We hope you have a lovely Easter holiday!

Unfortunately, most Easter activities and events around Sydney have been cancelled, and many attractions are currently closed. The Australian Government and health authorities have announced the cancellation of all non-essential gatherings to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Here are some activities you can try with your family at home during the holiday to support your child's learning. We look forward to hearing about what you get up to!

## EASTER HOME LEARNING CHALLENGES

**M**ake some Easter treats to share with your family. You could make cakes or biscuits and decorate them too!



**H**ave an Easter egg hunt! Ask a grown-up to hid some Easter eggs for you to find. How many eggs can you find?

**E**gg starts with the letter 'e' - what else starts with the letter 'e'? Write a list of other things that start with the letter 'e'. How many things can you find?



**D**ecorate some hard-boiled eggs, to make them bright and colourful, You could use pens or paint and add some extra decorations, such as stickers, feathers, pom-poms or googly eyes.

**T**rying some planting activities. You could plant some seeds in a flowerpot filled with soil. Make sure to give them some water and put them somewhere sunny.



# ANZAC DAY IN SYDNEY

Unfortunately, most ANZAC Day services and events in Sydney have been cancelled. The Australian Government and health authorities have announced the cancellation of all non-essential gatherings to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus.



ANZAC Day on April 25 is a national day of remembrance and commemoration. This solemn day remembers all Australians who have served and died in war and on operational service. The 25th marks the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps 1915 landing at Gallipoli, Turkey in World War I.

Initially, ANZAC Day was a day to remember those who served in WWI. However, the date has now become a day to remember all Australians and New Zealanders who have served in conflicts across the globe. The acronym ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.

Customarily, dawn services, wreath-laying, veteran marches and commemorative services are held across Sydney and NSW. The main Dawn Service is usually held in Martin Place at The Cenotaph, which was sculpted by Sir Bertram Mackennal and unveiled in 1929.

However due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year there will be a nationally televised Anzac Day commemorative service instead, held at **5.30am on Anzac Day. This will be broadcast live across Australia on the ABC and online.**

# Mother's Day Australia

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY, MUM!  
YOU'RE THE BEST!

Flowers make perfect Mother's Day crafts. These clay flowers are fun for decoration, and kids can make Mum a whole garden!

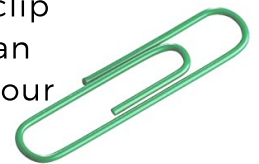
## Materials for clay flowers

- Air dry clay
- Cookie cutters
- Paper plate
- Paper clips
- Acrylic paint

- 1 Use small cookie cutters or create the shapes yourself with air dry clay to create the flower. Mold the clay into a small, flat piece. Using a paper plate as your surface, push the cookie cutter into the clay. The excess clay on the outside should peel off easily.



- 2 Now that you have your flower, push the end of a green paperclip into the bottom of the flower. This is the stem! So the flower can stand up, make a base by rolling a small ball of clay between your hands. Push the other end of the paperclip into the base.



- 3 Let the clay dry overnight. Then paint the flower and base with acrylic paint.



# NATIONAL SORRY DAY



National Sorry Day is held on May 26 every year to recognise and acknowledge the Stolen Generations. Here are some simple Sorry Day activities you can do with your children to continue these important conversations and learning experiences.

## Sorry Day Sun Art



Use the National Sorry Day Reconciliation Hand template to create this beautiful Sorry Day Sun. Hand templates can be easily found on the web



### To create this artwork:

- 1 Decorate the hand templates with colours and pictures that represent Sorry Day.
- 2 Cut out the hand templates ready to build the artwork.
- 3 Cut a circle out of yellow paper or cardboard. Write the word "sorry" in the centre.
- 4 Fan the decorated hands out around the yellow circle to create a Sorry Day Sun.

