

Thursday 19 March 2020

Updated Information and awareness of COVID-19

Dear Families,

As a result of the announcement by the Prime Minister yesterday, we wish to advise you that at this time Bliss Early Learning continues to remain open and operational, in order to continue to provide quality education, care and support to all our children, Families and Educators. The Australian Government Health Advice, is that schools should remain open, and by that extension, Early Childhood Education.

We recognise that Care and Early Childhood Education plays an integral part in our society, and endeavour to continue providing education and care for our children. The health and wellbeing of our children will remain our utmost priority, and with this in mind, we feel that preserving the continuity of care and maintaining routines for children is an important part of supporting Families in these uncertain times.

With the changing nature of COVID-19 in Australia and new advice being issued on a regular basis, it's natural to feel overwhelmed and unprepared. Please rest assured that Busy Bees have been preparing to act should the need arise and we will continue to maintain the precautionary measures outlined in previous correspondence.

We know that communities and individuals experience times of uncertainty in a range of different ways, however it is important to remain calm and mindful of current health advice.

Some things you can do to help keep your family happy and healthy:

- Take care of yourself and maintain good standards of hygiene
- Listen to children's fears and concerns and answer their questions
- Keep informed of the facts and current health advice
- Try to keep a regular routine (while being mindful of the current advice)
- Encourage play and fun
- Make time for your family to be together and enjoy each other's company

What are Busy Bees doing to manage the risk?

In addition to the precautionary measures already outlined in previous communications, Busy Bees has introduced temporary additional measures including:

- Heightened temperature monitoring for all children and staff throughout the day. Anyone with a temperature of 38°C or above will be asked not to attend the Centre and to monitor their health closely for any signs and symptoms of illness.
- Any child or staff member who has recently travelled overseas will not be permitted to return to the Centre for a minimum of 14 days following their return (as per Government directives).
- No visitors will be permitted to the Centre except as necessary. This includes a temporary hold on all non-essential maintenance, as well as incursions to the Centre
- In addition to the already-enhanced cleaning and sanitation measures that have been put in place, all high touch points are to be sanitised every 30 minutes during drop off/pick up times, and every 60 minutes throughout the day
- Self-serving of meals and snacks is to cease temporarily. We will continue to serve family-style with Educators serving the children
- Increase cleaning of textiles such as rugs and cushion covers.
- Increase access to hand sanitiser for all visitors to the Centre, and we request that any visitors sanitise their hands upon arrival and exit from the Centre
- Additional staff training on correct handwashing techniques has been completed

Should your child become unwell, have a high fever or show any symptoms of being unwell while at the Centre, we will ask you to come and collect your child immediately and seek medical advice. We ask that children then return to the Centre with a medical letter of clearance, once they are feeling well again.

If your child becomes unwell at home, we request that you do not bring them to the Centre but inform us of the reason for their absence.

The safeguarding of the health and wellbeing of our children, staff and wider communities is our top priority and we will continue to act in accordance with the latest public health advice from the Australian Government.

For the latest on COVID-19 please refer to the following Australian Government website:

<https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>

COVID-19 Factsheets issued by the Australian Government's Department of Education can be found at this link: <https://education.govcms.gov.au/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>

As well as the latest updates on the Busy Bees Australia website

<https://www.busybees.edu.au/corona-virus-updates>



Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation in relation to this important matter.

Warm Regards,

Robert Hughes
Chief Executive Officer