



Dear Family of YMCA Darling Heights OSHC, Welcome to our August 2018 service newsletter

FAMILY INPUT – Your Input is Valued

Family input is greatly appreciated at YMCA Darling Heights OSHC, we are asking that families take a few minutes to chat with their children and give us some feedback on what they would like to do while in attendance at our service, also include what you would like them to do while they are with us at our service. If you could email us both yours and your children's suggestions and interests that would be very much appreciated.

At Darling Heights all educators reflect on their own and the services practises and routines on a daily basis, we use our observations to help guide these reflections. Children are asked on a weekly basis for their input for both the program and for afternoon tea, include what they would like to do while they are with us at the service but we are missing family input, your input will help us to support our children's needs while at our service.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Bookings and Cancellations

Please see below paragraph from the Family Handbook which should have been received with your yearly Enrolment Pack. Booking and cancellation information can also be found on our Fee Schedule.

“At YMCA OSHC we attempt to cater to all families with regard to days needed for care. Bookings can either be on a permanent or casual basis. It helps in our planning for staff and activities if families book children in on regular days according to need. We understand that some families will be unable to predict days needed and we will try to accommodate; however due to licensing requirements there may be some days we will have to refuse care to casual bookings. Parents/Guardians must notify staff of cancellations to a session booking by 6pm of the previous Friday to avoid charge.”

*If you would like another copy of the Family Handbook please let either Helen or Melissa know.

Please remember our service is licenced by Department of Early Childhood Education and Care for only 60 children per session.

Absent Days - Please contact us:

If your child/ren will be absent on any given day or session during the week, we require you to let us know as the school does not inform us and it makes a huge difference and minimises the impact of the running of our daily program, not to mention the safety of all our children.

Please add our phone numbers to your contact lists on your personal phones and give us a call or text as soon as you become aware that your child/ren will not be attending a booked session. Our numbers are: 4635 6308 and 0455 088 401.

Family use of Toilets:

At YMCA Darling Heights OSHC we are happy for our families to use our toilets if in need. Due to our child safety policies, it would be much appreciated if you could let the 'Responsible Person in Charge' (Helen or Jess) know so that we can ensure the safety of all people here at YMCA. The Responsible Person in Charge will check the toilets are child free before an adult enters. Your understanding in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Family and Community Support:

Family & Child Connect – Toowoomba

This is a service that has recently reached out to YMCA and has hosted information sessions for YMCA OSHC centres to bring awareness of what they can assist families with in the community. Below is some information regarding the company and the services they can provide.

Family and Child Connect helps vulnerable families connect with services they need to safely care for their children at home. The service helps families access the help they need before problems escalate and require statutory intervention.

family and child connect

Connecting families
to the right services
at the right time

What support is provided?

Parents can seek support through the service to:

- Develop parenting skills and managing child behaviour
- Build better relationships between family members, including help with any violence at home
- Improve budgeting and managing money
- Manage alcohol, drug or gambling problems
- Access housing, healthcare or other community or government services.

If you wish to contact Family & Child Connect, see below:

- Family and Child Connect Toowoomba is located at Mercy Community Services, 104 South Street, Toowoomba
- Opening hours for both sites is Monday, Wednesday to Friday, 8.30 am to 5.30 pm, Tuesday 8.30 am to 7.30 pm.
- To contact your closest Family and Community Connect service call 13FAMILY or 13 32 64.
- <http://familychildconnect.org.au/>

Making your life easier:

Online Booking Service

Booking Now Made Easy with our Online Booking Service Now AVAILABLE at YMCA Darling Heights OSHC

We also encourage families to use our easy and convenient online booking service through your smart phone app "My Family Lounge".

If you would like to know more or you are unable to source your logon details please contact us as soon as possible so that we can assist you.

I am able to get our online My Family Lounge provider to send you logon details to your email address.

It's as easy as down loading the app to your smart phone, logging on, popping in your logon password and you are all set to go.



Educators News:



Helen Mann has been at the YMCA Varsity Lakes service on the Gold Coast for the past few weeks. She has been there assisting the new coordinator set up her service and adjust to the YMCA administration duties. Helen is due back at YMCA Darling Heights mid August.

Educators Professional Development:

All staff here at YMCA Darling Heights have completed a YMCA Policies and Procedures Quiz. This quiz was designed for staff to update themselves on the policies and procedures of YMCA as they were recently updated by head office.

Activities and Projects:

During the month of July, our children participated in many exciting experiences here at YMCA OSHC.

Holiday Club:

Bubbles Day: To kick off Bubbles Day the children engaged in an educational discussion with an educator about how bubbles are made. The children also engaged in lots of bubble themed activities such as; bubble wrap painting, designing our own bubbles, making our own bubble wands out of pipe cleaners, bubble blowing and popping and bubble related games. The children thoroughly enjoyed blowing bubbles outside using the bubble wands and bubble gun and chasing them down the path and popping them. We love bubbles! ☐

Marvellous Mirrors - Incursion: The children started off the Marvellous Mirrors incursion with an educational discussion about how mirrors are made and how they show us our reflection. The children enjoyed the incursion activity which was decorating their own mermaid or monster truck mirror scene. They also engaged in other mirror related activities such as; creating their own 'mirror' using a cardboard cut-out and aluminium foil and decorating it with mosaic tiles, they also drew a mirror reflection portrait of a friend. The children also engaged in lots of group games and activities throughout the day.

Pet Appreciation Day: Today for Pet Appreciation Day the children engaged in an educational discussion about the types of pets vs the animals they keep as pets in other countries and the children had an opportunity to show and tell photos of their pets they have at home. The children also engaged in all sorts of pet related activities such as; making papier mache versions of our pets and if the children didn't have a pet they made a paper mache version of a pet they would like to have, they created animals out of recycled materials, they built lego and duplo animals, created pet profiles to share information about their pet with others, made paper plate animals and played adapted animal versions of our popular games. The children really went animal crazy for the day!

YMCA Talent Show: Children started off the morning with a talk about the history of talent shows around the world, how they started and what the aim of them is. The children were given the opportunity to plan and practice something to perform for the talent show. We also engaged in lots of group games and activities.

Chocolate Fiesta Day: For our chocolate fiesta day we started off with a discussion about how chocolate is made and where it comes from. The children were intrigued to find out about the cacao plant and how it is transformed into the chocolate we buy at the shops. The children also engaged in lots of chocolate themed activities throughout the day such as; designing their own chocolate and collaging the wrapper for it, using recycled material to create their own chocolates, completing a chocolate wrapper collage, chocolate themed colouring ins and changing our favourite group games to fit in with the chocolate themes.

NAIDOC Day: To start off NAIDOC Day the educators shared with the children the story behind the \$50 note. The story about the man who was on it and why he was there. The children learnt all about who he was and his story. The children also learnt a little bit about how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were taken advantage of back in the olden times. The children also engaged in a multi-part activity where we listened to a story about a significant person in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and why they are well known and then engaged in a writing activity based on each of these. They also engaged in lots of other NAIDOC themed activities such as; learning a NAIDOC song which a small group performed for the rest of the group, writing their own NAIDOC poems after reading existing ones, writing about what the \$50 note means to them, some Australian animal sand art and a magazine collage and a dot painting activity where we dot painted the Aboriginal flag. Thoroughly learned and enjoyed all about NAIDOC Day (Week) is all about.

Cobb & Co Museum - Excursion: To kick off our excursion day to Cobb and Co Museum to engage in their 'Alice's Wonderland: A Most Curious Adventure' themed activities and shows etc we had a discussion to remind children of all safety rules and such on the excursion. We then departed on the bus ride to Cobb and Co. The children first walked through the exhibits and engaged in all of the special Alice's Wonderland themed activities and illusions etc then ventured to other parts of the museum to revisit our favourite parts such as the energy for life room and the national carriage museum. The children always thoroughly enjoy this time. The children then engaged in the educational show put on by the Museum where we watched chemical reactions and all sorts of other cool science stuff.

Photos & Memories Day: Where do we begin? We started off the day with a discussion about many photo related topics such as how photos are developed, all about the olden day cameras and how cameras work. The children then had the opportunity to show and tell their baby photo if they brought one in. The children also engaged in lots of different photo related activities such as drawing and cutting out the decorations for our photo booth, painting and decorating our polaroid frame for use in the photo booth, taking photos individually and in family groups in our photo booth, drawing our favourite memories, making props for use with the photo booth, making cameras out of our recycled materials and much much more. The children enjoyed being the service photographer for the day as well.

Dr Seuss Day: How else to start off Dr Seuss Day then with a discussion about the doctor himself? We had a discussion about how the Dr Seuss books began and then we talked about some of the other (less well known) Dr Seuss books. The children then had the opportunity to show and tell their own Dr Seuss books which they very much enjoyed while we read them as we went along. The children also engaged in lots and lots of Dr Seuss themed activities such as; a cat in the hat collage, writing our own funny rhyming stories and illustrating them, designing our own Dr Seuss character and naming it, collaging cat in the hat's hat and enjoying green egg and lettuce sandwiches for afternoon tea in true Dr Seuss style. Was an awesome day had by all children and teachers alike.

Christmas in July: To kick start our mid-year Christmas celebration we had a discussion with the children about what Christmas in July is, how it come about and why. The children thought it was a wonderful idea and it was much more fun to get to celebrate Christmas again without all of the craziness that surrounds December. The children engaged in lots of Christmas craft such as; drawing santa in our own perspective, making Christmas cards, making santa and his sleigh using our recycled materials and craft trolley materials and also singing Christmas carols. Was a really fun-filled day for everyone.

Term Time:

Week 1: This week we focused our discussions on National Farm Safety Week, National Pyjama Day and what makes us unique. During the 3 day duration when we learnt about National Farm Safety Week the children discussed with educators some facts and figures about children's injuries on farms, why children get injured on farms and how we can stay safe while on the farm. The children also engaged in lots of farm related activities such as; identifying and colouring in some farm safety gear, some fact sheets and also created a farm animal mobile. We then discussed what makes us unique from the others at YMCA and made a poster that stated each child and what they thought made them unique from the others, the children then completed 'All About Me' sheets where they shared information about themselves and drew a self-portrait. Then to finish the week off we had a discussion about National Pyjama Day then the children designed their own 'dream' pyjamas and collaged or coloured them in.

Week 2: This week the children engaged in discussions based around significant events happening this week such as; Nelson Mandela Day, Stress Down Day, JuEYE and Crazy Hair Day and also discussed what country the children wanted to learn about in August. The children engaged in lots of activities based on these such as; making and colouring in Nelson Mandela quote posters, DIY yoga classes, an obstacle course outside, eye health awareness worksheets and we coloured our hair with coloured hairspray for Crazy Hair day.



Unicorn head band mad from pipe cleaners



Face Painting with Miss Jess.H



Participating in yoga



Cooking experience during vacation care



Alice in Wonderland exhibit at Cobb & Co Museum



Photo booth Fun on Photos & Memories Day

Safe Guarding Children and Young People:

Child Protection is Everyone's Business.

Please see below for some supportive links full of information and contacts.

- Amego App information available at: <http://www.earlylearningreview.com.au/morcombes-launch-amego-app-for-child-safety/>
- Daniel Morcombe Foundation – To find out more information on Child Safety go to the below website. <http://www.danielmorcombe.com.au/>
- Child protection - www.communities.qld.gov.au/ , www.qld.gov.au/community/getting-support-health-social-issue/reporting-child-abuse/index.html , (National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect - NAPCAN) – www.napcan.org.au/resource-hub/
- Community events - www.mycommunityconnect.com.au
- Child Care Benefit - www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/child-care-rebate
- Domestic Violence - <http://www.dvconnect.org/about-us/> (Hotline 1800 811 811 24/7)

- **Immunisation** - [http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/5403D77C07E1973ACA257D49001E3775/\\$File/NIP-schedule2016.pdf](http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/5403D77C07E1973ACA257D49001E3775/$File/NIP-schedule2016.pdf)
- **Inclusion Support** - www.ku.com.au/resources/documents/FSF%20Information%20for%20Families%20Brochure.pdf
- **Mental Health** - www.kidsmatter.edu.au/families/about-mental-health/mental-health-basics/when-life-hurts
- **Nutrition** - www.naqlid.org/services/healthy-at-home/
- **Physical Activity** - [www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/F01F92328EDADA5BCA257BF0001E720D/\\$File/brochure%20PA%20Guidelines_A5_5-12yrs.PDF](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/F01F92328EDADA5BCA257BF0001E720D/$File/brochure%20PA%20Guidelines_A5_5-12yrs.PDF)
- **Raising Children Network** – (General and contemporary topics e.g. nutrition, physical activity, play, computers and technology, effective hygiene practices, immunisation, infection control) www.raisingchildren.net.au/school_age/school_age.html
- **Relationships Australia Queensland** - www.raq.org.au/
- **Sun Safety** - www.qld.gov.au/health/staying-healthy/environmental/sun/index.html
- **Support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families**- www.communities.qld.gov.au/gateway/reform-and-renewal/child-and-family/working-better-with-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-families
- **Triple P Parenting** - www.triplep-parenting.net.au/qld-uken/about-triple-p/positive-parenting-program
Phone Parentline on 1300 30 1300
- **Family and Child Connect** - <http://www.familychildconnect.org.au/index.asp>

Facebook Information

Like us on Facebook to view our exciting posts and see what your children are really up to while there with us. Every week we post pictures and information about what our children engage in whilst at YMCA Darling Heights OSHC.

<https://www.facebook.com/YMCA-Brisbane-Outside-School-Hours-Care-740250386008243/timeline/>

Policy of the Month for July has been:

Policy #20 – Fees

This included:

- Procedures
- Payment Requirements
- Child Care Subsidy (CCS)
- Absences at the start and End of care
- Approved and Additional Absences
- Late Collection Penalty
- Cancellations and Refunds
- Vacation Care
- Staff fee Discount

If there are any areas of interest or other items you would like added to our newsletter please let us know by forwarding an email to adh@ymca.org.au or write your area of interest in our family communication book found on the family information table.

Warm Regards
Helen Mann and the Darling Heights Team