



Dear Family of YMCA Darling Heights OSHC, Welcome to our September 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 spent the first 4 weeks of term 3 at our Varsity Lakes service. She was there to assist the new coordinator to set up the service and help her adjust to her new administration duties. She has since spent the following 4 weeks standing in as the Area Coordinator for Zone 2 of our OSHC services at YMCA to cover a staff member in upper management on holidays. She is due back week 9 of term 3.

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.

The staff have also completed a refresher for the YMCA induction program.

Activities and Projects:

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

Term Time:

Week 3: During this week the children have engaged in many educational discussions about different significant events that fall within this week such as; International Day of Friendship, National Step Family Awareness Day, National Tree Day, Wheel Make a Change and MS Readathon. The children have also engaged in heaps of different activities based around these such as for International Friendship Day we made friendship certificates for our friends to acknowledge how good of a friend they are as well as writing acoustic poems about friendship. For National Step Family Awareness Day we collaged step family quotes all about what it means to be a step family and why it doesn't matter if families aren't blood. For National Tree Day we engaged in some activity worksheets all about National Tree Day and what is all about. For Wheel Make a Change Day we made a days of the week wheel and we also did a wheel make a change colouring in and lastly for MS Readathon the children engaged in writing their own book reports as well writing our own short stories.

Week 4: This week we also engaged in lots of educational discussions about significant events happening around us. The events this week were National Aboriginal and Islander Children's where we made aboriginal rain sticks and decorated our own bookmarks. For Jeans for Genes Day we cut out and collaged some Jeans for Genes Day bunting and we coloured in a JGD poster. For Homelessness Prevention Week we designed our own dream house and we played spot the difference with a HPW poster. For International Day of the World's Indigenous People we dot painted paper plate snakes and used old magazines to collage an Aboriginal flag and lastly for National Science Week we engaged in a science experiment about surface tension and we made wacky scientist headbands.

Week 5: This week the children engaged in some educational discussions about some significant events as well as some information about our country of the month, England. Some things we learnt about England were just some general did you know facts and all about their education. We also learnt about International Youth Day and Book Week. The children engaged in activities based on England such as colouring in the English flag, a word search themed royal places, learning how to easily draw the queen as well as a palace guard, collaging the english flag and a double decker bus and also making a moving palace guard. They also engaged in Book Week activities which were a book report and a treasure chest of all of our books that are special to us and lastly for International Youth Day the children made their own bouncy balls and also made their own stress balls. Was a very fun filled and busy week for all children at before and after school care.

Week 6: This week was very similar to week 5 in that we learnt about a few significant events as well as learnt a little bit about England. For our England educational discussions we discussed 'A Two Minute Trip to London' where the children had to close their eyes and listen to a story and imagine what different things would look like to them and we also learnt about foods that are popular in England. The significant events we discussed this week were Keep Australia Beautiful Week, RSPCA Cupcake Day and Daffodil Day. The activities we engaged in for our England days were Paddington Bear paper plate craft, Diamond Jubilee activity sheets, an English flag collage and a paper plate crown activity. Other activities we engaged in this week were an emu parade and a rubbish sorting activity for Keep Australia Beautiful Week, designing our own cupcakes and cupcake bunting for RSPCA Cupcake Day and 3D daffodils and a daffodil poem for Daffodil Day.

Week 7: This week was mostly based on Father's Day, we learnt the history of Father's Day, and how different people celebrate Father's Day around the world and some cultural traditions that exist around Father's Day. We also squeezed in learning about Legacy Week. The children designed their own Legacy Week teddy bear and completed a colouring in for Legacy Week. For Father's Day the children in heaps of craft for dad such as; making Father's Day cards, decorating t-shirt phot frames for dad, we wrote Father's Day poems, painted Father's Day door hangers, decorated "Dad" wooden signs, wrote poems about our dads and cut out and decorated cardboard 'DAD' glasses. We had heaps of fun making heaps of cool stuff for our dads ☐



Our children love helping the educators in the garden!



Breakfast is our favourite time of day at YMCA Darling Heights OSHC ©

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/$File/NIP-schedule2016.pdf)
- **Inclusion Support** - www.ku.com.au/resources/documents/FSF%20Information%20for%20Families%20Brochure.pdf
- **Mental Health** - www.kidsmatter.edu.au/families/about-mental-health/mental-health-basics/when-life-hurts
- **Nutrition** - www.naql.org/services/healthy-at-home/
- **Physical Activity** - [www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/F01F92328EDADA5BCA257BF0001E720D/\\$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 August has been:

Policy #4 Arrivals and Departures of Children

This Includes:

- Procedures
- Late Arrivals and Departures
- Non-attending Children
- Runaway Children

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