



In Home Care

SUPPORT AGENCY TASMANIA



CONTACT DETAILS

info@ihcsupportagencytas.com.au

ihc.admin@ihcsupportagencytas.com.au

1300 052 057

www.ihcsupportagencytas.com.au

Newsletter

July 2020

Dear Educators,

What a year 2020 has been so far – it's hard to believe July has crept up on us already! Despite all the noise and adversity we have faced of late, our In Home Care educators have continued to support families, which is a true testament to your commitment to supporting the education and care needs of children.

Cessation of Free Childcare Package

As of the 13th of July, the Australian Government's Free Childcare Package will cease and Child Care Subsidy (CCS) will recommence as usual. This has been widely covered in the media and messages have also gone out to families via Services Australia (formerly Centrelink) to advise of this, so your families should be aware that they will return to paying their family contributions from this week. Please remember you need to begin invoicing families from week beginning 13th July 2020.

CCS Enrolment

A reminder that CCS enrolment automatically ceases if child care has not been accessed by a family for 12 weeks or more. Please keep this in mind if you have a family recommencing with you after a prolonged break – they will need to make contact with Services Australia to arrange to have their CCS reinstated.

Hygiene Practices

These are imperative at the best of times, and though there are no active COVID-19 cases in Tasmania, this is not the time to become complacent. It is important we continue to follow strict hygiene practices in order to stop the spread of germs. In Home Care educators are likely already doing the

following, but we take this opportunity to kindly remind you that upon arrival and departure of a family's home, please ensure you wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water, and dry your hands completely. Other measures include sanitising your hands regularly throughout your shift, and practice safe sneezing/coughing (into your elbow or a tissue). These are also opportunities to role model healthy hygiene practices for the children within your care.

If you are feeling unwell, please give your family as much notice as possible so they have an opportunity to make other care arrangements. Lastly, if you are working with a family who have developed their own protocols in relation to working within the family home during COVID-19, please let us know so we can update this information within the family file.

Required: Booking Information

Whilst it is the responsibility of families whose bookings change regularly in line with work rosters, to advise IHC Support Agency of all IHC bookings, we also appreciate that within the business of family and work life sometimes families forget to email or phone IHC Support Agency with their upcoming bookings.

Therefore, we encourage all educators to email IHC Support Agency as soon as your bookings with a family have been confirmed. This may be on a weekly, fortnightly, or monthly basis. The reason we require this information is to ensure families have been approved for the correct number of IHC hours.

Although it is ultimately the families' responsibility, thank you to the educators who consistently email IHC Support Agency Tasmania to advise of upcoming IHC bookings with individual families.

Please seek clarification from us if you have any questions.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Autism is a developmental disorder that affects how a person thinks, feels, interacts with others and experiences their environment. It is a lifelong disorder that starts when a person is born and stays with them into old age. Just as with all humans, every person with ASD is different from every other, and traits of the condition can range from mild to extreme.

Early intervention is the best way to support the development and wellbeing of children with disability, ASD, developmental delay or other additional needs. It can support children to develop the skills they need to take part in everyday activities.

Early intervention often focuses on four key areas of children's development:

- **physical development** –children's bodies and brains
- **cognitive development** –children's thinking and learning
- **behavioural development** – children's behaviour and how it's affected by physical and cognitive development, and,
- **social and emotional** development – children's ability to form relationships and cope with emotions.

Different therapies used as part of early intervention address these developmental areas in different ways. For example:

- **Occupational therapy** can help with fine motor skills, play and self-help skills like dressing and toileting.
- **Physiotherapy** can help with motor skills like balance, sitting, crawling and walking.
- **Speech therapy** can help with speech, language, eating and drinking skills like chewing, sucking and swallowing together with play skills.
- **Psychological therapy** can help with forming relationships, coping with emotions and learning behaviours and skills.

Children often benefit from a combination of therapies – this is called a **multidisciplinary approach**. Children often need different therapies or therapy combinations at different stages of their development.

For further information and resources to increase your understanding and knowledge of autism:

<https://www.autismspectrum.org.au/about-autism/what-is-autism>

<https://www.autismawareness.com.au/could-it-be-autism/understanding-autism/>

*Annette, Roxanne and Amrita
In Home Care Support Agency Tasmania*