



In Home Care

SUPPORT AGENCY TASMANIA



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Newsletter

August 2021

Dear In Home Care Educators,

We are well into August and the end of Winter is in sight!! We hope that the school holiday period went well for everyone, and that everyone is now settling back into the routine of school term 3.

We thank each of you for supporting the families who utilise In Home Care across Tasmania. In our conversations with the families, we regularly hear how important you are to the families you work with, and what an incredible job you do! We value the connections we have with IHC educators and look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with families, IHC Service Providers and educators to ensure IHC across Tasmania continues to grow and provides quality education and care for children and families.

IHC Support Agency Tasmania staffing

To appropriately support the ever-growing number of IHC families across Tasmania, we have restructured IHC Support Agency administration role to increase our response times to phone calls and emails across each week. Whilst we aim to ensure either Natalie or Roxanne are available to respond to phone calls and emails each day, there will be times when families or IHC educators may need to leave a message with another staff member. Please be assured either Natalie or Roxanne will return the call as soon as possible.

Virtual Catch Ups

This month will see the second round of virtual catch ups 'Community of Practice', between IHC educators and the IHC Support Agency.

South – Thursday 19th August 7pm – 8pm.

North - Wednesday 1st September 7pm – 8pm

North West - Thursday 26th August 7pm – 8pm.

Our first round of virtual meetings were very well received and we again look forward to seeing everyone's smiling faces on screen over the coming month. This month's call will take place via Zoom - all you need to participate in these sessions is a computer, tablet or phone with a built-in microphone and camera. If your computer doesn't have a built-in camera, you can still join the meetings just using your microphone. If you would like to have a test run of the technology before the call, just send us an email or give us a call, and we can set up a time to have a trial run.

In this newsletter, you will find information on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). We will reflect on the following autism spectrum disorder resources during our online catchups this month. Please read the following information before we meet online, and Roxanne and Natalie look forward to answering any questions you may have.

ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder)

Autism, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD), refers to a broad range of conditions characterised by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviours, speech and nonverbal communication. It is a lifelong disability that starts when

a person is born and stays with them into old age. Every person with autism is different to every other, which is why autism is described as a 'spectrum'.

Through understanding more about autism and its impact on how a person thinks, feels, interacts with others and experiences their environment, we are more able to support family, friends and other members of our community who are supporting (caring) for a child or adult with autism.

Ten Things Every Child with Autism Wishes you Knew

1. I'm a child.
2. My senses are out of sync.
3. Distinguish between won't (I choose not to) and can't (I am not able to).
4. I'm a concrete thinker. I interpret language literally.
5. Listen to all the ways I'm trying to communicate.
6. Picture this! I'm visually oriented.
7. Focus and build on what I can do rather than what I can't do.
8. Help me with social interactions.
9. Identify what triggers my meltdowns.
10. Love me unconditionally.

For further information about autism please read then following fact sheets.

<https://ihcsupportagencytas.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Autism-Spectrum-Disorder-Factsheet.pdf>

<https://ihcsupportagencytas.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Providing-Visual-Supports-Tip-Sheet.pdf>

<https://ihcsupportagencytas.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Aspect-Practicet-BB-Positive-Behaviour-Suppor-Early-Years.pdf>

Newsletter Articles

Please email or call Roxanne or Natalie if you have any particular topics, you would like us to include in our next newsletters. We welcome and very much value input and feedback from IHC educators in relation to our bi-monthly newsletters.

Educators Required

We continue to have a growing waitlist of families looking to commence IHC in upcoming months across the state. Tasmanian IHC Service Providers are eagerly seeking to grow their educator numbers to meet continuing demand. If you know any qualified early childhood educators (Cert III and above), or someone who is looking to start their qualification or considering a new career path, please ask them to contact our IHC Service Providers (Wanslea IHC, Placement Solutions or Leor In Home Early Learning) or IHC Support Agency Tasmania and we can provide prospective educators with contact information for each of our Tasmanian IHC Service Providers.

Areas with immediate need at the moment include the East Coast (Bicheno), the Tasman Peninsula and the Central Highlands Council area in particular, (Bothwell).

We would also like to remind educators to regularly check the waiting list that Wanslea emails to you to see if you may be able to support any of these families. Some of these families have been on the waiting list for considerable time and are desperately needing to connect with an educator. It is worthwhile expressing interest in a family even if you are not able to cover all of the shifts – many of these families

would appreciate any of their shifts to be supported by In Home Care.

Advising IHC Support Agency of IHC bookings for families who work on a variable roster.

We appreciate educators emailing IHC Support Agency with your upcoming IHC bookings, dates and hours for families who work on a variable roster (different days/hours each week or fortnight). Whilst we understand this is not part of your responsibility, busy families often forget to inform the IHC Support Agency of changes to their

IHC needs, in particular, an extra shift etc.

By dropping us an email to let us know your upcoming bookings with individual families who work variable rosters, ensures IHC Support Agency is aware and can approve the correct amount of IHC hours for any individual week/fortnight. It also assists to report accurate usage of In Home Care places to the Australian Government.

Email:

info@ihcsupportagencytas.com.au or
ihc.admin@ihcsupportagencytas.com.au

Looking forward to seeing everyone online over the coming weeks to participate in our next bi-monthly catchups (Tasmanian IHC Educator Community of Practice)

Roxanne, and Natalie.

In Home Care Support Agency Tasmania