



In Home Care

SUPPORT AGENCY TASMANIA



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Newsletter

August 2021

Dear In Home Care Families,

We are well and truly 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 life.

We appreciate the relationships we have with our IHC families and thank you for keeping us up to date as your circumstances and care requirements change. Please don't hesitate to give us a call or send us an email if you have any feedback, queries or concerns.

We have many families on the waitlist who are waiting to be matched with an educator so that they can commence In Home Care. If you happen to know of anyone in your family, friends or community who may be interested in becoming an In Home Care educator, 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. The areas with the most immediate need at the moment include the East Coast (especially Bicheno), The Tasman Peninsula, and the Central Highlands Council area (particularly Bothwell)

Autism Spectrum Disorder

In this month's newsletter we are shining a light on 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 the 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>

Guidelines, Policies and Procedures

We wish to remind families of important guidelines within In Home Care program including;

- **IHC sessions cannot be used to provide a family with respite care.** Whilst we understand that families develop trusting relationships with IHC educators, should you require someone to care for you children whilst you attend an appointment or go out for dinner, this is not an approved purpose for IHC therefore, you will need to enter into a private arrangement with your IHC educator.
- **IHC sessions cannot be used for parenting support.** We understand that at times your child may be unwell with a cold or similar and unable to attend school or an education and care centre however, caring for a child who is unwell while a parent works does not fit within IHC Guidelines and therefore you will need to enter into a private arrangement should you wish your IHC educator to care for your unwell child. Within the IHC guidelines this would be viewed as parenting support unless of course your child's health is connected to an ongoing medical condition or disability.
- **If you require an additional IHC booking to undertake an extra shift at work,** please send us an email or give us a call so we are aware and can ensure that we can accommodate any additional shifts within our approved allocation of In Home Care places for Tasmania. All extra shifts (not detailed within your FMP) need to approved by In

Home Care Support Agency Tasmania. Once we approve an additional IHC shift, we will email the relevant IHC Service Provider to advise them of the additional IHC shift for your family. This ensures that IHC educators are paid for shifts which are additional to what is detailed within your Family Management Plan.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the In Home Care Support Agency.

IHC Educator 'Community of Practice'

We have recently established IHC educator 'Community of Practice' within Tasmania and held our first online regional gathering for IHC Educators in June 2021. Within a 'Community of Practice' educators and IHC Support Agency Tasmania (Roxanne and Natalie) come together to

- exchange ideas,
- share information,
- provide peer support,
- explore issues/challenges, and
- discuss a range of topics relating Early Childhood Education and Care/IHC.

We very much appreciate the relationship we have with IHC educators across Tasmania and look forward to maintaining a Community of Practice where IHC educators can share and learn together.

IHC Support Agency Tasmania staffing

To appropriately support the growing number of IHC families across Tasmania, we have restructured the IHC admin 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 may need to leave a message with another staff member. Please be assured either Natalie or Roxanne will return your call as soon as possible.

Please also remember to keep us updated with any changes to your IHC needs or family circumstances. This will help us ensure that your Family Management Plan (FMP) is up to date and is reflective of the correct days and times of IHC sessions. Ensuring you keep your FMP updated also ensures IHC educators are being correctly paid for the hours they work. This can be done either by phoning 1300 052 057 or emailing either;

ihc.admin@ihcsupportagencytas.com.au.
Or info@ihcsupportagency.com.au

We look forward to continuing to support your In Home care needs across Tasmania.

Roxanne, and Natalie.

In Home Care Support Agency Tasmania