



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

August 2022

Dear In Home Care Families,

Welcome to our August newsletter. We hope you are all managing to stay well during these winter months!

In the current economic landscape, we have looked at ideas for play experiences for children and how children's play can be supported without breaking the budget. Have you ever noticed that if you leave what may be described as old junk around, whether it be empty boxes, offcuts of wood, old containers (the list is endless), your child will almost inevitably play with it? Or perhaps you have observed your child occupied with the package a toy came in vs playing with the toy? These examples could be described as Loose Parts and in this edition of our newsletter, we have included information about Loose Parts Play that may interest you and your child.

Loose Parts Play



The loose parts play theory is based on the idea that when children are presented with a collection of objects (i.e. loose parts), they have more opportunities for creativity and engagement as they rearrange, redesign and tinker with the parts,

creating patterns and new objects as they go.

There are many benefits of loose parts play which include:

- Developing a sense of independence as children have the freedom to explore different materials autonomously.
- Encouraging language development as children communicate their ideas and knowledge.
- Building creative thinking, problem-solving, curiosity and abstract thinking skills as children explore the materials and discover new ways of playing with them.
- Enhancing fine motor skills as children pick up, hold and manipulate materials in multiple ways.
- Facilitating collaboration, sharing and belonging as children interact with others around them engaged in the play.
- Increasing physical play and activity along with gross motor skills as children move and transfer their creations and use them in further imaginative play.

Loose Parts Resources

One of the best things about loose parts play is that it's relatively inexpensive. You can find many of the loose parts materials around your house or out in nature. The possibilities are endless!

Here are just some ideas to get you started.

- natural materials such as pine cones, sticks, rocks and leaves
- craft items such as pipe cleaners, beads, buttons, sequins, cotton

reels, paddle pop sticks and feathers

- household items such as egg cartons, bottle caps, milk carton lids, paper towel and toilet paper tubes
- wooden items such as wood scraps or wooden blocks

All these things can be easily collected from around the home; however, in utilising loose parts, consider the age of your child as some Loose Parts may be too small for very young ones if not fully supervised.



Introducing your child to Loose Parts Play is easy! The children can help to gather the resources in both their homes and in the natural environment.

Loose Parts play makes learning fun and visible for children of all ages. There are just a few examples of the possibilities below:

Maths – counting, sorting, creating patterns, exploring size and shape.

Science – experiments around which object float or sink.

Language and literacy – Storytelling, describing the resources using descriptive language.

Art, movement and music – Creating musical instruments, using feathers to paint, dancing with scarves and ribbons.



If you would like further information, let us know and we can provide this to you. Also discuss Loose Parts Play with your educator.

Covid 19

COVID-19 remains with us, plus the other ailments the winter months bring. Accessing the website below ensures that you are up to date with current Covid-19 information.

As outlined on the Tasmanian Government COVID-19 Website, there are some key behaviours that we all need to continue in our everyday lives and routines.

These behaviours help lower your personal risk as well as the risk to our community. Being prepared and taking precautions is the best way to ensure we can continue our daily activities with as little interruption, and risk of illness, as possible.

<https://www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/>

We understand that the pandemic is impacting on many families work commitments. Please keep us informed if your work or education and care requirements change.

Changes to In Home Care Support Agency Procedures

We would like to remind all families about the recent changes to Support Agency procedures as outlined below.

The Australian Government has introduced new processes the In Home Care Support Agency – Tasmania (IHCSAT) are required to undertake when assessing family's eligibility to receive In Home Care.

The IHCSAT is required to formally assess each family's eligibility to receive IHC every 3 months and families will now be required to provide current documentation that supports their eligibility every 6 months.

If supporting documentation is not provided when requested, In Home Care sessions will cease until such time as the relevant documentation is provided and a formal assessment of your family's eligibility for IHC has been completed.

Examples of documentation required may include:

- Current work rosters or letters from employers on official workplace letter heads.
- Current medical letters for families who fall under the 'Complex and Challenging' eligibility criteria. These letters need to clearly state why other forms of approved childcare are not suitable/recommended.
- Evidence that no other forms of childcare are available within a 56km radius of the family home if families wish to apply for IHC under geographically isolated from other approved education and care (childcare) criteria.

When the IHC Support Agency Tasmania receives the required supporting documentation as part of the quarterly Family Management Plan review process, your family's ongoing eligibility for IHC will be formally assessed and you will be notified of the decision in writing.

We acknowledge that this is a change from the way this process has occurred in the past but rest assured that all families will be given ample notice when they are required to provide relevant supporting documentation. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any questions or concerns regarding these changes.

Service Provider Information

We now have a second active IHC Service Provider with educators working within the South and North West Regions of Tasmania.

If your family are currently on a waitlist (awaiting an available educator), you may wish to contact Placement Solutions to gather information regarding the availability of educators in your area. It is also recommended that with any IHC Service Provider you gather relevant information regarding current fee structure together with service policies to identify if they are able to meet your IHC needs (become your preferred IHC Service Provider).

Should you decide Placement Solutions are a 'good fit' for your IHC needs, please ensure you **contact IHC Support Agency Tasmania to advise us you would like to enrol with Placement Solutions**. We will then email a copy of your current approved IHC Family Management Plan to Placement Solutions so your family can begin the enrolment process.

Placement Solutions

Phone: (03) 1300 854624

Email:

info@placementsolutions.com.au

We value the connections that we have made with all In Home Care families, and thank you for keeping us up to date with changes to your circumstances and care needs.

Please remember to email or call and let us know if you require any additional or extended IHC session

times to enable you to meet your work commitments, as we are very aware that many employers are experiencing staffing difficulties and that employees are often being asked to work either additional shifts or extended work hours.

It is important that you inform IHC Support Agency Tasmania of any changes to your IHC shift times so we can approve the changes and advise Wanslea IHC, to ensure your educator is paid correctly.

We need more IHC Educators

To be able to grow IHC across Tasmania and support more families, we still require more registered IHC educators in each region. We have an ever-growing waitlist of families who require IHC to be able to meet their work commitments (non-standard hours). If you know of anyone in the community who might be interested in registering as an IHC educator (either with Certificate III (or above) Early Childhood Education and Care, or willing to undertake study for Certificate III Early Childhood Education and Care), please let us or Wanslea know.

An orange speech bubble graphic with the text "Join our team!" written inside in white, bold, sans-serif font.

Roxanne and Natalie

IHC Support Agency Tasmania