

Community Kindergarten package and C&K Commitment Statement - Branch Kindergartens
17/04/2020

Dear Families,

I am writing to update you and clarify some of the conditions of the Queensland Government's Community Kindergarten assistance package for Term 2, commencing next week. Your kindergarten will be open from Week 1 and be offering a regular Kindergarten program for children of essential workers and those children who are experiencing vulnerability or disadvantage. All other children will be able to access learning at home resources that will be provided through your kindergarten.

Essential workers are those who currently need to attend work. This includes those who are working from home. If there are two parents and only one is working, your child should be cared for at home

Children experiencing vulnerability or disadvantage are those children who have previously received the [QKFS Plus subsidy](#) or those whose doctor or another professional has recommended that they attend kindergarten. During this time of heightened concern about social distancing and the increased need for teachers and educators to manage the numbers of children in a space, C&K is seeking your support over the coming weeks to help us provide the safest working environment for our staff while reducing the risk for those attending the kindergarten.

In order to achieve this, the Queensland Department of Education has directed that:

All children who are able to be supervised at home and learn from home are to stay home, except for vulnerable students and children of essential workers.

For more information about the Department's advice on who should attend kindergarten, please see <https://earlychildhood.qld.gov.au/news/covid-19-information/frequently-asked-questions>.

Children who have compromised immunity or other health conditions

The Australian Government Department of Health advised that if your child has a health condition and/or compromised immunity, you should contact your doctor for advice about whether your child should attend kindergarten during the pandemic.

Learning at Home Resources

Supported by our C&K education team, your teachers and educators are developing 'learning at home' resources that you will be able to use with your child if they are not attending kindergarten. Your child's teacher will be in touch soon to show you how to connect with your Kindy and access the resources.

Your enrolment and fees

During Term 2, fees will not be charged for eligible-aged children (those who turn 4 before 30 June 2020) for 15 hours of kindergarten per week (30 hours per fortnight). We are aware that some children currently enrolled are not of eligible-age and others attend for more than 15 hours per week. We are currently assessing the guidelines related to the funding package to determine if fees need to be charged in these circumstances. We will advise you of the outcome early next week.

Importantly, you will not lose your place at kindergarten if your child does not attend over this period. Your child will continue to be enrolled and can return once the Government lifts the restrictions or if your circumstances change. If your circumstances change over the coming weeks and you need your child to attend kindergarten, we ask that you provide your centre director with one week's notice.

Limited Hours Care

We have been advised by the Department of Education that Limited Hours Care has not been included in the Community Kindergarten Assistance Package. Fees will continue to be charged for attendance in our Limited Hours Care programs.

Influenza Vaccination

The Department of Health recommends that anyone entering a kindergarten as of May 1, 2020 be vaccinated against influenza. C&K are encouraging all kindergarten staff to have their flu vaccination as soon as possible. We encourage you to seek medical advice about a flu vaccine for you and your child, even if you have never had a flu vaccine before.

C&K Commitment

In responding to the unique circumstances of COVID-19, C&K has developed a statement of commitment to provide a safe and healthy environment for children, families and employees. Realising the benefits of this commitment will take the collaborative efforts of all involved. You can [view the Commitment Statement here](#). We ask that you familiarise yourself with the expectations that we have for C&K as an organisation and for you as a family as we share the kindergarten environment. Our primary aim is to keep all children, families and employees safe and healthy throughout the pandemic.

I know that you may have many questions about what Term 2 will be like for your child. Please join us on the journey to a new era for C&K kindergartens. Our first weeks will be very much about learning new skills and finding new ways of connecting with you and your child. Your patience and support will be very much appreciated by your kindergarten team. Your Director will have more information for you next week. In the interim, if you have questions please contact our advice line - advice@candk.asn.au

We are all looking forward to the start of Term 2 on Monday – even if it may be a very different term for one and all.

Take care,

Sandra

Dr Sandra Cheeseman

Chief Operating Officer