

Update from C&K 22/04/2020

Dear Families,

I am writing to provide some important updates about the conditions of The Australian Government Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package. We have now had a few weeks to understand what the package means for C&K and our families.

The Australian Government's primary aim of their childcare package is to support services to remain open to ensure that quality early childhood education and care continues to be available to support essential workers and disadvantaged and vulnerable children and families.

In noting the Government directive that during the period of COVID-19 and implementation of the Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package, C&K will **prioritise care to essential workers, vulnerable and disadvantaged children and previously enrolled children**. In doing so, C&K aims to meet the requirements of the package while balancing the need to provide a safe and healthy environment for staff, children and families during this time.

C&K Commitment Statement

We are pleased to launch C&K's COVID-19 Commitment Statement. C&K make this commitment to our staff, children and families and ask that during this critical time, we all work together to ensure the health and safety of all who share our early childhood environments.

You can view the [C&K Commitment Statement here](#).

We ask that all families read through the expectations that we have for C&K as an organisation, for staff and for families. You will see reference to these Commitments throughout the childcare centre and the staff will be able to assist you and your child with some of the changes that might include handwashing on arrival at the centre, arrival and departure routines with your child and sign in arrangements. Please don't hesitate to ask the staff if you have any questions.

There are two particular things within the statement that I would like to draw your attention to:

Children who have compromised immunity or other health conditions

The Australian Government Department of Health have advised that families who have children with a health condition and/or compromised immunity, should contact their doctor for advice about whether the child should attend childcare during the pandemic. Please consult your doctor if you have any concerns about your child.

Influenza Vaccination

The Department of Health recommends that anyone entering a childcare centre as of May 1, 2020 be vaccinated against influenza. C&K are encouraging all childcare staff to have their flu vaccination as soon as possible. We are also encouraging families to seek medical advice about a flu vaccine for themselves and their child.

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, where possible C&K, will contain enrolment numbers and manage groups sizes in order to provide the safest working environment and reduce the risks to children. During the period of the Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package, C&K have made some changes to enrollment and attendance.

Enrolment and Attendance

During the period of the ECEC Relief Package, your childcare centre will remain open unless we are instructed to close by Public Health. Childcare will be provided for children of essential workers and those children who are experiencing vulnerability or disadvantage. Children who are staying at home during this period can access learning at home resources that will be provided through C&K.

Essential workers are those who currently need to attend work. This includes those who are working from home or studying.

Children experiencing vulnerability or disadvantage may be those who:

- Have previously been in receipt of ACCS or a Health Care Card Holder who are experiencing vulnerability.
- Have been recommended by doctor or other professional to attend childcare

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 childcare. 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.

This information is based on the most current advice available. It is subject to change as the COVID-19 situation changes. We will keep you updated as the conditions change.

For the period of the Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package, fees will not be charged to families for childcare. Children can remain enrolled but not attend. Importantly, no child will lose their place at childcare (as long as they remain enrolled), even if they do not attend over the coming weeks. Children will be able to return to childcare once the Government lifts the restrictions or if your family's circumstances change. If your circumstances change over the coming weeks and you need your child to attend childcare, we have asked that you provide the Centre Director with two weeks' notice. This notice period may be waived if it is an emergency situation.

Families requiring additional days

If your circumstances change over the period of COVID-19 and you need childcare because you are an essential worker or are experiencing vulnerability, you can talk to your Centre Director about the possibility of additional days of childcare. Additional days may be available on a temporary or permanent basis to support your needs.

C&K's Learning at Home Resources

Our C&K education team have been working on developing strategies to support teachers and educators to facilitate 'learning at home' resources. If you are keeping your child at home, you can talk with your Centre Director about some possible resources that you might like to access.

If you have questions, please contact our advice line - advice@candk.asn.au.

Thank you all once again for your support and patience during this time.

Take care,

Sandra

Dr Sandra Cheeseman
Chief Operating Officer