



# Newcastle Five Star Family Day Care

family@ncc.nsw.gov.au

July 2011

1 Victoria Street,  
New Lambton 2305  
P: 4904 3477

## ABSENCES

At a recent Childcare Benefit information session the rules of absences from childcare were confirmed:

- CCB will be applied to the first 42 occasions where a child is absent from their regular care day for any reason and payment is required (no documentation is needed).
- After the first 42 days have been used, CCB will only be applied for absences due to illness; court orders or rotating shifts (with appropriate documentation)
- Additional absence days will be payable if 31 or more of the initial absence days were due to documented long term illness.
- CCB will not apply on an absence day on the first or last day of care for any reason (including public holidays)
- All children have a new set of absences commencing 1st July.
- Educators can let the families know about total absences used after receiving the fortnightly CCB statements

## Positive outcomes for every child, in every home, every day

### Current News

*Three years ago several family day care services in the region collaborated to form the Five Star Family Day Care marketing partnership. The partnership currently consists of Newcastle, Maitland, Port Stephens, Singleton/Cessnock and Taree Family Day Care services.*

*The groups regularly combine creative minds and funds to promote quality family day care services through TV ads, radio advertising and print.*

*Over the last few months we have been concentrating on adding information on the Five Star website.*

*Please visit [www.fivestarfdc.com.au](http://www.fivestarfdc.com.au) to read information about Newcastle Educator Recruitment, Service Policies, Newsletters and Playgroup. Educators can also go to the "Carer" page for information on the EYLF, Regulations, resources and crafty ideas.*

*Please let me know what other information would be useful to you on the website.*

*From Alice Chesney (coordinator)*



# What A Great Idea (WAGI)



Using paint charts for exploring colours with the children—this idea comes from Sriya

- Get them to copy the colours
- Have 2 identical colour charts and cut out the colours for a matching game

**ABC for Kids** has fun craft ideas on their Instructions are printable and activities are shown on ABC

Visit [www.abc.net.au/abcforkids](http://www.abc.net.au/abcforkids)

Click on make and do then click craft



**Happy crafting!!!!**

## WELCOME

Welcome aboard Kelly and Maksuda our newest educators.  
Welcome to our relief educator Zeita and welcome back Tasha from maternity leave.  
We are looking forward to having you on board with Newcastle Five Star Family Day Care



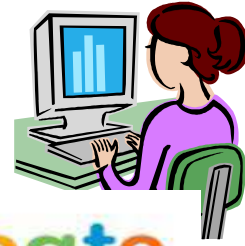
## FAREWELL

Sadly we say goodbye to 3 of our wonderful FDC educators.  
Philippa, Marilyn and Vicki we wish you well in your new ventures and thank you for your time with Newcastle FDC



# Admin Matters

The Australian Government offers two types of financial assistance for child care to eligible families: child care benefit and the childcare rebate



**Child Care Rebate**  
Helping families with the cost of child care

You maybe still eligible for the child care rebate even if you don't receive child care benefit

It pays up to 50% of your out of pocket expenses per child per year up to an annual cap

The rebate helps to cover the costs of any approved child care, including out of hours care

If you use approved child care for work, study or training you should check your eligibility

## What are the payment options?

**Families will have four options for receiving their CCR payment:**

1. Annual lump sum
2. Quarterly instalments in October, January and April, with a final payment after reconciliation processing
3. Weekly or fortnightly to their own bank account
4. Weekly or fortnightly to their service as a fee reduction

## What happens if families don't make a choice?

Families who don't respond to the FAO letter, will keep the same CCR payment arrangement as they have now. For most people, this will mean staying with a quarterly payment to their bank account.

**If you have any questions re the child care rebate please contact the family assistance office on 136150. or visit [Australia.gov.au/mychild](http://Australia.gov.au/mychild).**

Unfortunately the family day care office or your educator is unable to assist you with the payment questions. Please see over for a sample letter from the FAO that should have been sent to families

ABSENCES FROM CHILDCARE

## **SAMPLE OF LETTER sent TO FAMILIES FROM THE FAMILY ASSISTANCE OFFICE**

### **Important information about your Child Care Rebate**

I am writing to advise you of the new payment arrangements for your Child Care Rebate that will be available **from 4 July 2011**.

You now have a choice on how you receive your Child Care Rebate. These options include:

**1. Weekly/Fortnightly paid 'directly' to your child care service provider(s)** on your behalf as a fee reduction.

When choosing this payment option and you are receiving Child Care Benefit at a rate greater than zero, then 15 per cent of your Child Care Rebate entitlement will be withheld until the end of financial year reconciliation. This will minimise the potential for you to be overpaid for the year.

**2. Weekly/Fortnightly paid 'directly' into your nominated account.**

When choosing this payment option and you are receiving Child Care Benefit at a rate greater than zero, then 15 per cent of your Child Care Rebate entitlement will be withheld until the end of financial year reconciliation. This will minimise the potential for you to be overpaid for the year.

**3. Quarterly paid into your nominated account.**

**4. Annually paid into your nominated account.**

You need to make this choice **by 17 June 2011**.

**When you choose a payment option, this option will be applied for the entire 2011-2012 financial year. From 4 July 2011**, a new payment option cannot be applied until the start of the next financial year. If you do not contact us to nominate a Child Care Rebate payment choice, you will retain your current choice.

### **What you need to do**

You need to provide your Child Care Rebate choice for the **2011-2012** financial year by choosing one of the two options below.

#### **OPTION 1: Go to [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au).**

- If you have registered for Online Services, logon using your Customer Access Number (CAN) and password and select **Child Care** then **Update Child Care Rebate Payment Frequency** and complete your Child Care Rebate choice for the **2011-2012** financial year.
- If you have not registered for Online Services, select *Online Services* in the left menu, then select **Child Care** then **Update Child Care Rebate Payment Frequency**, then enter your Customer Reference Number (**CRN**) and this One Time Access Code (letters will be personalised with a unique code that families can use to access online services) and update your choice.

If you have any problems using Online Services please call us on **13 2307\***.

#### **OPTION 2: Call 13 6150\***

Say your Customer Reference Number (**CRN**), enter your **PIN** (if you have one) then say '**Child Care Rebate Options**' and follow the prompts.

*We can give you faster service if you provide your Customer Reference Number (**CRN**) and **PIN** (if you have one) when you call.*

## *Websites*

[www.playbasedlearning.com.au](http://www.playbasedlearning.com.au)

This fantastic site is a blog where you will find wonderful ideas to do with your children based on play and learning. The ideas are added each week from various preschools that the writers visit. They also provide links to various other sites with resources. So if you're looking for inspiration in creating irresistible play spaces or activities to implement with your child then why not visit this site.



## *Free Parent Training Opportunities*

Newcastle Family Support Services has free workshops for term 3  
Following are **some** of their workshops  
For more information phone 4926 3577 or visit website on <http://www.nfss.org.au>

***Change and growth*** - ideas for enriching your life

Cost Free

Fridays 5th August to 9th September 10am to 12 noon  
free childcare available

***Dads r us***—more than just fathering

Cost FREE

Tuesday 9th August to 13th September 10.30 to 12.30  
Free children session available

***Growing kids***

Tuesdays 9th August to 13th September  
10am to 12 midday  
free children's group available

# Playgroup Prattle

The children are doing great at picking up and remembering signing during Grouptime. They even have to remind me sometimes. To date we have learnt most of the farm animals, "Twinkle, Twinkle" and "Happy Birthday". Research shows that signing is a great way to enhance children's communication skills & by no means will it "stop them from talking", if anything it helps them as we sign and say the word. Young children & those with language problems learn both and as they manage the spoken word the signing is no longer used.

We started the Term with a terrific fundraiser for The Asthma Foundation—Pyjama Day. I must say how comfy it was wearing our PJ's and we raised \$45.50. A big thank you to our generous Educators and FDC families.



A big thank you to Denise who donated a felt board story and Thien Nga for her kind and generous donation of the beautiful Rain Stick. This has been well received this term as we have been looking at musical instruments. A real treat for us was when Logan bought in his violin and gave us a recital. I have to confess he was much better on the violin than I was on the guitar! We are eagerly awaiting term III because we have won a visit from a musical company who will let the children explore different instruments. The 2 sessions will be offered to our under and over 2's



Playgroup is open to ALL Newcastle Five Star Family Day Care educators. If you would like to know more please do not hesitate to give me a call (49043474).

Til next time—*Jane :)*



**Making a Tepee frame**



**Easter Egg Hunt and Fun morning at Jesmond Park**



**Avocado milkshakes**



We have been doing a bit of work in the playgroup yard this term. A digging patch was made out of old tyres and we have planted some lettuce seedlings which we hope will grow to make a delicious salad next term

# Early Years Learning Framework - EYLF

This document guides all educators in their planning and programming for the children in care. The Framework provides broad direction for early childhood educators in early childhood settings to facilitate children's learning. The Framework forms the foundation for ensuring that children in all early childhood education and care settings experience quality teaching and learning. For more information visit the website below and download a copy of the EYLF [www.deewr.gov.au](http://www.deewr.gov.au)

## Belonging

**Knowing where and with whom you belong**



## Being

**Children need to seek and make meaning of the world. It recognizes the significance of the here and now in children lives**



## Becoming

**Reflects the process of rapid and significant change that occurs in the early years as young children learn and grow**



- *Are you interested in starting your own business where you can set the days you work?*
- *Would you like to work at home and be there with your own children?*
- *Would you like to be home of an afternoon when your school age children arrive home from school?*
- *Do you have an interest in caring for children, have training in childcare or desire to train in child care?*

Have you thought about becoming a family day educator?

## ***Brighter Futures***



Hi Everyone,

We have just finished term 2.

Our Supported playgroups has been a hive of activity at Hamilton Public School and we have limited spaces in the morning sessions, however have vacancies for non mobile babies in the afternoon session.

There will be some changes to our supported playgroup program in term 3 2011.

**Due to time restraints and other work priorities we will continue our sessions on Wednesdays 9:30am to 11am for "Walkers plus" and in the afternoon our "non mobile bubs" session runs from 12:30pm to 2:00pm.**

**We run the playgroups in school terms only, rain, hail and shine**

**Term 3, Start date: 20th July 2011.**

If you are interested please call **0438-606-870** or you can also

**email:** [tellem@ncc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tellem@ncc.nsw.gov.au) and we can send you more detailed information.

If you were part of a Thursday group with us or interested in other playgroups you can contact directly Kim Gleeson from Parents as Teachers who co-works with us on Phone: 02-40149304 Or 0447190100

If getting there is a problem please let me know as we might be able to help.

Thank you to those who have provided some training ideas and interest on 1-2-3 Magic and Emotion Coaching.

We have just successfully finalized training some of our Educators in this and hope to offer a course to parents and families in the future.

**Cheers Tracy, Trish, Heather and Peta :)**

# Noticeboard

## Expo for Childhood

August 12th, 13th & 14th at Cardiff Panthers

Tickets are available at the door or on line at [stickytickets.com.au](http://stickytickets.com.au) \$10 (1 day) \$15 (3 days)

Contact Hunter alliance for childhood inc

Or email [hunterac@live.com.au](mailto:hunterac@live.com.au)

### The programme will include:

- Parent/Carer and Professional Development seminars and workshops,
- Exhibitor Stalls
- Free talks and demonstrations
- Film Screenings
- Children's Charity Fundraising

## Blackbutt Reserve

Koala Kapers - Children will have a close encounter with one of Blackbutt's resident Koalas, pat a cheeky ring-tail possum, search for hidden ground critters and create an animal masterpiece.

Bookings Essential **4904 3344**

**Dates:** 5 - 14 July 2011

**Cost:** \$16 per child plus \$3 for a photo with a Koala

**Time:** 9.30am to 11.30am

## Local Libraries

### July holiday fun @ Newcastle Region Library

Great activities will be running at all library branches during the school holidays. Call into your local library for a brochure or visit our website.

These preschool activities will be running at **NEW LAMBTON** library.

Bookings and prepayment is essential for all activities. Ph 4904 3340

**Bring Blackbutt to you** Tue 12 July 2pm  
Touch a lizard, feel a python and tickle a turtle.

**45 minute show Cost: \$5 Age: 4+**

**Earthbeats** Wed 13 July 2pm

A hands-on multicultural workshop. There's lots of fun for all!

**1 hour workshop Cost: \$5 Age: 4-12**

**For further information for what is on at other libraries**

**visit the council website or contact your local branch or phone 49745300**



## Live sites Kids

Livesites presents a range of school holiday activities from 8.30am to 5.30pm

Children aged 6 to 12 years

5-7th July Cost \$45 per day

Contact 4925 3969

# Junior master chefs in the Kitchen

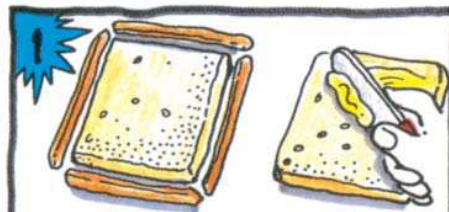
Makes 4 serves.

## Ingredients

4 slices wholemeal bread  
1 tablespoon  
polyunsaturated  
margarine  
4 slices lean ham  
1 small onion  
1 small zucchini  
1 tablespoon SR flour  
2 teaspoons finely chopped  
Parsley  
2 eggs  
½ cup grated fat-reduced  
cheese



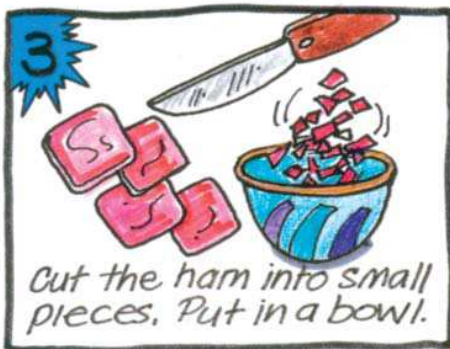
## How to make



1 Cut the crusts off the bread. Spread bread lightly with margarine.



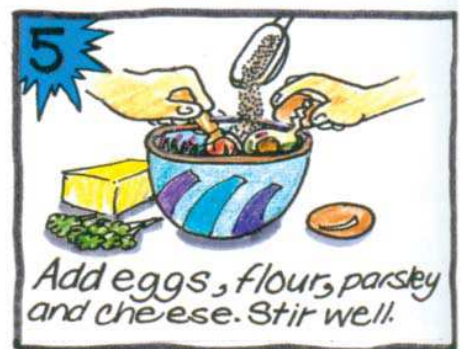
2 Arrange spread side up on the bottom of a shallow dish.



3 Cut the ham into small pieces. Put in a bowl.



4 Grate the onion and zucchini. Add to the bowl.



5 Add eggs, flour, parsley and cheese. Stir well.



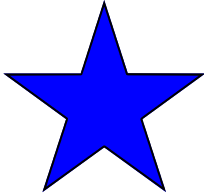
6 Use a fork to beat the egg.



7 Spoon mixture over bread. Cover with plastic wrap.



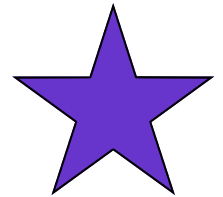
8 Microwave on **MED-HIGH** for 8 minutes. Serve hot or cold.



Newcastle Five Star Family Day Care adopts Australia's foremost childcare model, based on small, safe home environments that encourages learning in a friendly, supportive culture—so that every child has an opportunity to shine.

All parents and FDC educators are encouraged to provide feedback or comments to ensure that Newcastle Five Star Family Day Care is maintaining high quality childcare in our community.

1Victoria Street,  
New Lambton 2305  
P: 4904 3477  
F: 4956 3107  
E: family@ncc.nsw.gov.au



***"The Australian Government provides financial support for this family day care service under the child care services support program"***

