



Normanhurst West Community Preschool Inc.
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Fee Free Preschool 2021

Dear Families,

We are delighted to share that as a community preschool we are included in the extension to 2021 of the Covid 15hrs Fee Free Preschool Funding that was announced in early November 2020.

It has taken some time to get the information regarding how this will work and the impact it will have on the preschool, families and the community. It has been communicated that all enrolled children are entitled to up to 15hrs a week fee free preschool, which for our preschool is a maximum of 3 days a week. We can confirm that the preschool will be opting into the program for term 1 2021 to begin with. The preschool will assess its financial situation each term to see if the 15hrs fee free preschool program will continue each term and this will be communicated accordingly.

So what does this mean for families enrolled for term 1 2021?

- All children enrolled and attending up to 3 days per week (15 hrs) will be fee free for term 1 2021.
- Any child enrolled for more than 3 days a week will be charged at \$63 per day for each day over 3 days.

Sadly, we only receive 80% in funding to cover fees for the preschool. Unfortunately this doesn't cover all our expenses and we need to make up some of that 20% to remain viable and operational as a quality preschool.

We have always included activities such as in-service entertainment, equipment and craft supplies in our budget however, without full fees being funded, voluntary financial support has been considered to provide a safe environment as well as these great experiences and opportunities. This has resulted in having to consider an increase to our levies to continue to provide this for the children for 2021.

The below levies will be voluntary contributions we encourage all families to pay. Whilst we have been instructed by the government that these are to be optional payments whilst apart of the fee free preschool program, we would like all parents to know that the preschool needs some sort of income in order to be able to function at its best in 2021. As we will not be receiving enough money from the government as needed, and haven't been able to do any fundraising in 2020, this has raised concerns regarding sustaining our budget for 2021.

We are a community based preschool and families support along the community is integral for the preschool to remain in operation. We are asking for your assistance for the below amounts. We will be putting these amounts on your invoice for you to pay if you are able to. If you are wanting to pay a different amount than this, please let us know and we are able to change your invoice to reflect the increase or decrease. We will reassess our financial position each term to see if we can sustain free preschool but hopeful with your support with these voluntary payments that we can. If we can get adequate contributions from families, we will be able to continue the free preschool scheme for the year of 2021, but if not we will have to consider reverting back to full fees for the remaining terms.

For term 1 2021 and whilst apart of the 15hrs fee free program our voluntary levies will be the following;

- Our maintenance levy will increase for 2021 to \$100 per term per child.

This levy will go towards paying for gardening, maintenance, repairs and cleaning to the preschool environment.

- Activities, Equipment and Resource Contribution: \$150 per term per family.

This levy will go towards paying for craft supplies, in-service entertainment, toys and equipment.

Please note: If fees and levies are subject to change, 14 days' notice will be provided as per our policy. Fees and Levies will be reviewed as required leading into 2022. The above levies being "voluntary" are only in place whilst the preschool is a part of the fee free preschool program.

Without these considerations in place, the preschool will be challenged financially and put our future into uncertain grounds. We appreciate your understanding and support and look forward to sharing 2021 with you all. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

We are so grateful to all our incredible families who have supported us and helped us through this year and looking forward to an amazing 2021.

We wish you all a very Happy New Year and safe holiday break.

Kind Regards,

Jessica Thomson and the 2020 Management Committee