



Central Shoalhaven Mobile
Preschool

PARENT HANDBOOK

2024



CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Address

Cottage 3, 80 Park Road
Nowra 2541

Office Telephone Numbers

4423 0571 or 0491 616 182

Email

admin@shoalhavenmobilepreschool.com.au
director@shoalhavenmobilepreschool.com.au

VENUE INFORMATION

<u>Cambewarra</u>	0432 274 244 School of Arts Hall, 75 Main Road, Cambewarra Operating hours - 8.00am—3.30pm Preschool program operates 9.00am-3.00pm	Monday Thursday
<u>Huskisson</u>	0412 928 095 Community Centre, 17 Dent Street, Huskisson Operating hours - 8.00am—3.30pm Preschool program operates 9.00am-3.00pm	Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday
<u>Manyana</u>	0432 274 244 Yulunga Community Hall, 195 Sunset Strip, Manyana Operating hours - 8am—3.00pm Preschool program operates 8.30am-2.30pm	Tuesday Wednesday

OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

Central Shoalhaven Mobile Preschool office hours are **7.30am—4.30pm weekdays**.

Our service runs per school terms, therefore we do not operate during school holiday periods which are in line with the NSW Department of Education Schools.

TERM DATES—2024

Term 1	Start: Wednesday 31 st January 2024 End: Friday 12 th April 2024
Term 2	Start: Monday 29 th April 2024 End: Friday 5 th July 2024
Term 3	Start: Monday 22 nd July 2024 End: Friday 27 th September 2024
Term 4	Start: Monday 14 th October 2024 End: Thursday 19 th December 2024

Webpage: www.shoalhavenmobilepreschool.com.au

Email: admin@shoalhavenmobilepreschool.com.au

Office/Correspondence: Cottage 3/80 Park Road Nowra NSW 2541



HISTORY

Central Shoalhaven Mobile Preschool (CSMP) is a community owned, not for profit service that has been providing early childhood education for over 40 years in the Shoalhaven Region. It is one of the longest running Mobile Preschools in NSW. The idea of a Mobile Preschool first began at a public meeting in Huskisson in March 1976. Money was raised, along with a grant and a loan from the Shoalhaven City Council and the dream became a reality, commencing in February 1977.

In May 1987 a second service was started with \$20,000 raised through fundraising, along with support from the Shoalhaven City Council and funding from the Department of Youth and Community Services.

Central Shoalhaven Mobile Preschool is currently funded by the State Government and licensed under the Department of Education. CSMP provides a highly regarded preschool program that follows the National Early Years Learning Framework. Each Mobile unit is licenced to provide preschool for up to 20 children aged from 3 to 5 years at an appropriate venue within a 1 hour drive of our base at Nowra.

In years past we have provided preschool at Huskisson, Cambewarra, Manyana, Sussex Inlet, Falls Creek, St Georges Basin, Tomerong, Callala Beach, Currarong, Culburra, and Greenwell Point.

Central Shoalhaven Mobile Preschool operates with 2 fully equipped vehicles. Qualified Early Childhood Teachers and Educators staff each venue. We design and implement engaging learning environments for children to learn and play together within their own unique community. Each unit carries a selection of toys, books, puzzles, games, art and craft, easels, tables and chairs, rugs and much much more.

Central Shoalhaven Mobile Preschool is a place for children to learn and make friends within their own community, developing a sense of belonging for each child. Building relationships between children and young families serves to strengthen these unique communities and contributes to children's developing sense of identity.



CSMP PHILOSOPHY

At Central Shoalhaven Mobile Preschool, the education and wellbeing of the children in our care is paramount.

Our quality educational programs and practice are child focused and based on a holistic approach to early childhood education that values the development of physical skills, creativity, emotional understanding, social skills, cognitive ability, and environmental awareness.

We believe that young children should be active participants in their own learning and that they learn through a combination of modelling, targeted instruction, and lots of play. Play at preschool gives children the opportunity to communicate their ideas and consider the perspective of others. Play allows children to practice skills, problem solve and discover new challenges.

CSMP recognises that each child is unique and brings with them their own stories and view of the world. We recognise and value families as the first teachers of their children and celebrate the diversity of families in our communities.

CSMP strives to build and maintain respectful connections and partnerships within our preschool and in the communities in which we operate. We promote access and inclusion and strive towards providing learning environments that are welcoming to all.



MISSION

To provide a friendly and supportive place in the Shoalhaven where children can learn and grow through play.

VISION

Our vision is to work in partnership with families and the community to promote the holistic development of young children in order to equip them with skills, happiness, confidence, kindness and a love of learning.

VALUES

CSMP values child focused early childhood education that is centered around play. In our preschool we celebrate and foster respect, kindness, inclusion, creativity, collaboration, safety, and caring for our community and the environment.

OUR TEAM

Kym Parsons	Director	Diploma of Children's Services
Emma Francis	Director	Studying Bachelor of Education (Birth-5years) - currently on maternity leave
Nicole Featherstone	Teacher	Bachelor of Teaching (Early Childhood)
Jodie Gray	Teacher	Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood)
Elizabeth Sargent	Teacher	Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood)
Toni Roose	Educator	Diploma Equivalent in Early Childhood Education & Care
Kate Cook	Educator	Diploma of Children's Services
Kym Parsons	Educator	Diploma of Children's Services
Annaleise Jago	Administration Officer	

MANAGEMENT OF THE PRESCHOOL

The Management Committee is formed by the preschool Director, volunteer parents who are elected from members of the CSMP Association and up to two appointed committee members who are recruited from the community to provide specific skills and expertise to ensure the effective management of the organisation. The Approved Provider is our Management Committee. Each year our enrolled families are invited to join the CSMP Association. The Executive positions on the Management Committee include President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Ordinary Members.

The Committee meets twice a term and works together in the best interest of the preschool, to oversee the long-term management and survival of this important community asset. The Management Committee is the legal entity that operates the preschool, ensuring that it meets the requirements of the National Quality Framework and the National Law and Regulations. The preschool cannot legally operate without a committee therefore it is vital that parents consider supporting the preschool by joining.

The committee meets to discuss and agree on preschool business including developing strategic business plans, staff and employment requirements, financial matters, compliance, fundraising and policy review, along with other legal requirements as the Approved Provider. Our Annual General Meeting is usually held in March each year, when families can nominate to become a part of the Management Committee Executive. All committee members do need to provide the Department of Education's Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate with the following important documents to ensure the service meets the Approved Provider requirements: Volunteer Working with Children Check, Evidence of identity e.g. Licence or Birth Certificate, Criminal History Check (including all previously known names), a PRODA RA number issued by Services Australia and evidence of management capability. The preschool is happy to assist new committee members with these requirements.

The preschool provides the new Committee with relevant and up to date governance training to ensure they have a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities.

Webpage: www.shoalhavenmobilepreschool.com.au

Email: admin@shoalhavenmobilepreschool.com.au

Office/Correspondence: Cottage 3/80 Park Road Nowra NSW 2541



ROLES OF THE COMMITTEE

- Support preschool staff & Director
- Familiarise self with constitution of the preschool
- Attend Governance Training provided by preschool
- Ensure responsibilities as the Approved Provider are satisfied
- Ensure the safety, health and wellbeing of children attending
- Help develop strategies to ensure we keep improving the educational and developmental outcomes for children attending our services
- Promote continuous improvement in the provision of providing quality education and care
- Attend meetings
- Take local issues to the committee
- Represent and promote the preschool in their local community
- Assist with fundraising
- Assist the Director in developing a Strategic Plan
- Always maintain strict confidentiality & act in the best interest of the preschool
- Ensure the financial sustainability and viability of the preschool

PARENT PARTICIPATION

We encourage and value parent participation in our preschool programs. We believe this valuable relationship strengthens our communities and contributes to developing strong partnerships that enable children to develop a strong sense of belonging.

We understand that your participation at preschool depends on many different factors including home and work commitments. Teachers encourage and appreciate whatever level of participation you feel comfortable with.

- Join the CSMP Association, stay for a chat, ask questions, make suggestions.
- Donations of tissues, baby wipes, hand sanitizer, hand soap and art & craft material.
- Complete and return all notes, forms, or surveys promptly.
- Share a special skill with the children, such as a music, dance, craft, or science.
- Become a committee member and represent your area.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

Our staff are happy to talk to you about your child's development or progress at any time. If drop-off/pick-up times are busy, please chat with your child's teacher about scheduling a time that is more suitable to talk. You can discuss any other issues or ideas for the preschool with your Management Committee delegate or the CSMP Director.

We try to keep parents well informed about what is happening at the preschool through a variety of different methods.

Our communication consists of:

- Kinderm8 Portal
- Notice boards displayed at venue
- Website
- Parent/Guardian Handbook
- Newsletters
- Committee meetings
- Emails
- Phone calls/text

Copies of important policies will be available on our website. Each venue also has a copy of current policies and procedures that you can view at any time.

Webpage: www.shoalhavenmobilepreschool.com.au

Email: admin@shoalhavenmobilepreschool.com.au

Office/Correspondence: Cottage 3/80 Park Road Nowra NSW 2541



FEE INFORMATION

The 2024 fee schedule is as follows:

Full fee: \$25.00 per session

Subsidised fee: \$15.00 per session

Subsidised fee is available for families with a valid Health Care or Pensioner Card, or families who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, please contact the office for more information.

Affordable Preschool Funding

The NSW Government has an ongoing commitment to making early childhood education accessible to children aged 3-5 years old. In 2024, families will have the opportunity to access fee relief via the Affordable Preschool Funding Program provided by the Department of Education. The funding is intended to lower or reduce to nil the daily fees and levies that Services charge to attend preschool and for eligible children, this funding will cover preschool fees up to a maximum of \$4,220 in 2024.

Fee relief via the Affordable Preschool Funding Program is provided to all children who attend a mobile preschool such as CSMP, with no requirement to opt-in. In addition, children who attend CSMP are also able to opt-in and receive additional fee relief if they attend another Service, such as Community Preschool or a Long Day Care. All fees at CSMP will be covered by the Affordable Preschool Funding Program in 2024.

Fee relief via the Affordable Preschool Funding Program is scaled by hours of enrolment to encourage 600 hours per year of early childhood education for children in preschools. Your child's fee relief will be calculated based on the number of hours your child is enrolled as per the table in our fees policy.

Fee relief may also be used to reduce the cost of enrolment fee and resource levy if the total amount of funding your child is eligible for is greater than the total fee for the year. Any unused fee relief is non-refundable to families and is absorbed by the CSMP for operational expenses as per the Department of Education's spending rules.

Per child hours of enrolment per year	Indicative average hours per week, based on a 40-week year	Percentage of per child base rate received	Per child funding rate
600 hours or more	15 hours or more	100%	\$4,220
480 to less than 600 hours	12 to less than 15 hours	80%	\$3,376
400 to less than 480 hours	10 to less than 12 hours	70%	\$2,954
320 to less than 400 hours	8 to less than 10 hours	60%	\$2,532
Greater than 240 to less than 320 hours	greater than 6 to less than 8 hours	50%	\$2,110
240 hours or fewer	6 hours or fewer	40%	\$1,688

Webpage: www.shoalhavenmobilepreschool.com.au

Email: admin@shoalhavenmobilepreschool.com.au

Office/Correspondence: Cottage 3/80 Park Road Nowra NSW 2541



FEE INFORMATION

Daily Fee Policy

When daily fees are payable by families, they must be kept up to date. There are no reductions if your child is absent, eg: due to family holidays or sickness. If you choose to pay your fees by the term, it must be paid by week 8 of the preceding term. If payment of fees has not been made you will receive a reminder email, stating OVERDUE and a phone call. No further reminders will be issued. If fees are in arrears of more than 2 weeks, you must pay the full amount owing prior to your child attending preschool again. If no payment is received, your child's position may be forfeited. Upon enrolment 2 weeks fees are to be paid in advance and held as your "holding fee". Please note that a holding fee is not required in 2024 as all fees are covered by the Affordable Preschool Funding Program.

Central Shoalhaven Mobile Preschool Carer Reference Number is **407 977 916J**.

Subsidised fees are available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and Health Care Card holders where the child's name is on the card. A copy or photo of the health care card must be included with enrolment.

CSMP is a cash-free preschool. Fees may be paid in the following ways:

- Termly—direct deposit
- Fortnightly—direct debit

Central Shoalhaven Mobile Preschool reserves the right to review and update fees from time to time, providing 14 days written notice of any proposed changes to all users of our service.

Enrolment Fee

On enrolment we have a \$50 Enrolment Fee. This fee covers administrative costs and includes the annual membership fee for the CSMP Association. Enrolment fees are non-refundable.

Please note that the enrolment fee is not payable in 2024 as all fees are covered by the Affordable Preschool Funding Program.

Resource Levy

We also require a \$50 Resource Levy. This levy is used to help with purchasing new equipment and learning resources for the children each year. Resource Levy's are non-refundable.

Please note that the resource levy fee is not payable in 2024 as all fees are covered by the Affordable Preschool Funding Program.

Our Banking Details

Central Shoalhaven Mobile Preschool
Commonwealth Bank BSB: 062585 - ACCOUNT – 00911748

Late Fee Policy

All children must be collected by the stipulated finish time. If the child is not collected on time a late fee of \$20.00 for every 5 minutes late will be charged and payable within 7 days. The late fee policy is designed to ensure parents collect children on time from preschool and will not be deducted from the fee relief provided by the Affordable Preschool Funding Program.

Webpage: www.shoalhavenmobilepreschool.com.au

Email: admin@shoalhavenmobilepreschool.com.au

Office/Correspondence: Cottage 3/80 Park Road Nowra NSW 2541



COMPULSORY DOCUMENTS

Together with your enrolment details we also require the following:

- Copy of child's **Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) Immunisation History Statement**. This is available through Medicare on MyGov.
- Copy of child's **Birth Certificate**.
- Copy of your **Centrelink Health Care Card** (if applicable).
- Parent authorization for regular outing—**Mobile library form** (if applicable)
- Parent authorization for regular outing—**Emergency procedure practice form**
- **All about me form**
- **Application for membership of Central Shoalhaven Mobile Preschool**
- **Consent to use and disclosure of child's personal information**

No enrolment will be confirmed until these documents are received. We require these documents every year upon each enrolment.

IMMUNISATIONS

All children starting preschool must provide a copy of one of the following documents:

- A Medicare **Immunisation History Statement** which shows that the child is up to date with their scheduled vaccinations, or
- A Medicare **Immunisation History Form** on which the immunisation provider has certified that the child is on a recognised catch-up schedule (temporary for 6 months only) or
- A Medicare **Immunisation Medical Exemption Form**, which has been certified by a GP.

No other form of documentation is acceptable (ie Blue Book). The Preschool will not enrol children if the required documentation is not provided. Children who are unvaccinated due to their parent's conscientious objection will not be enrolled.

Further information is available at <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Publications/parentchildcare>

CHILD PROTECTION

Children have a fundamental right to be protected and kept safe. Central Shoalhaven Mobile Preschool is committed to the safety of all children in our care.

All childcare staff are required by law to be mandatory reporters of child abuse. If staff suspect a child is at risk of harm this will be reported to the relevant authorities as required by law.

Staff will follow our policy on child protection when making any declaration or report to authorities.

All our staff and visitors are required to have current working with children checks prior to working with the children.

AUTHORISED COLLECTORS

Children will only be authorised to leave preschool with a parent/guardian, or an authorised person listed on the enrolment form. Should you wish for your child to be collected by someone different, a signed authorisation must be given to a staff member and the preschool notified in advance. Identification must be shown to staff if the collector is new or unknown to staff.

It is important that no child is ever allowed to leave a preschool venue unaccompanied.

Please ensure you shut the gate on arrival and departure and only let your child exit with you.

Webpage: www.shoalhavenmobilepreschool.com.au

Email: admin@shoalhavenmobilepreschool.com.au

Office/Correspondence: Cottage 3/80 Park Road Nowra NSW 2541



STARTING AT PRESCHOOL

Separation from home and family can be a difficult experience for some children. If this is the case for your child, it is not unusual. Be patient. They will need time to adjust and feel confident in a new setting. Talk about preschool before their first day. We encourage you to drop in for some playtime to help with the orientation process before your child's first day. However, please check with the preschool to confirm the most appropriate time and if any Covid 19 restrictions or recommendations are in place.

The settling-in period is different for each child. Some children need time for their parent/guardian to stay and play. Some prefer if their parent/guardian leaves soon after arrival. Please feel free to stay with your child for a while on the first day or so if you think it will help to settle them. If your child is distressed when you are leaving, we will be there to help. In most cases this does not last long after the parent/guardians departure. If your child remains distressed, staff will give you a call.

Please remember that it is important that you say goodbye to your child when you leave. Let your child know that you will return as this will help reassure your child. Giving them a time that they are familiar with helps them to understand the time frame, for example, "I will be back just after lunch " or " before we pick up the big kids from school". It is important to be on time at the end of the day as children can become upset when everyone else is going home and they remain. Please talk to staff if you are having any problems.

Please do not forget to fill out your child's All about me sheet included in the enrolment pack. This helps teachers prepare activities and resources that best meet your child's interests and needs. It helps us learn more about your child and family and to work on some learning goals together.

OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

CSMP approaches teaching with a child centered philosophy based upon the principles and practices outlined in The Early Years Learning Framework - Belonging, Being and Becoming.

Our Philosophy is interwoven into our program and practices, and implemented with the children each and every day. Our program aims to provide an engaging environment that provides opportunities to extend and scaffold on each child's existing skills and ability. Our program ensures that children's individual knowledge, strengths, ideas, culture, abilities and interests are the focus of the program.

Our teachers use a range of strategies including: intentional teaching, responsive teaching, critical reflection, scaffolding and child directed learning in our programs.

Our teachers and educators take a planned and reflective approach to implementing the program for each child. Assessments and planning are developed and delivered as part of an ongoing cycle of observation, analysing learning, documentation, planning, implementation and reflection.

We aim to keep families informed about their child's progress in the program through a variety of different ways: verbal conversations, emails, the program is displayed daily, record of observations can be viewed on request from families. A learning portfolio documenting each child's learning journey will be sent home at the end of each year for you to keep. Please speak to the teacher at the venue if you would like to view the portfolio during the year at a time convenient for both you and staff.

Parents are encouraged to ask about their child's development and collaborate with staff in setting goals for their child in the program.

For information about the Early Years Learning Framework, please follow the link below.

<https://www.dese.gov.au/national-quality-framework-early-childhood-education-and-care0/earlyyearslearningframework>

Webpage: www.shoalhavenmobilepreschool.com.au

Email: admin@shoalhavenmobilepreschool.com.au

Office/Correspondence: Cottage 3/80 Park Road Nowra NSW 2541



A MESSAGE FROM THE EDUCATORS

A Day at Preschool

Your child has unpacked his/her bag and is ready to begin. Where to now?

Every day at preschool your child will be involved in numerous learning activities. All these activities aim to benefit your child's development whether it is social, emotional, cognitive, language or physical skills. The weekly program will give details as to what we are doing and why.

Our program is flexible as we aim to respond to children's interests, which are forever changing.

During the day your child will have the opportunity to play. Children's play is children's work. We all need to respect a child's right to play and feel secure in the knowledge that through this play the children are continuously exploring and making new discoveries.

Your child will have the opportunity to be involved in:

- Dramatic Play** They may be a policeperson, fireperson, doctor, hairdresser or cook a dinner for a family of five. The language and co-operative play skills that are developed in the area make it a valuable part of the day.
- Creative Arts** You may receive numerous paintings, drawing, collage, weaving and threading to take home and display. These activities develop creativity, strengthen hands, and build fine motor skills. Show them off with pride.
- Outdoor Play** Outdoor play allows the children to run, jump, climb and play more rigorous games. A popular time of the day.
- Group Time** A time to share stories, music, drama, movement and spend time together with our friends. Good practice for big school but more importantly a lot of fun.
- Construction** Children develop their fine motor and problem-solving skills as they manipulate materials to build all sorts of things.
- Sensory Experiences** The Messy ones! The children will enjoy slime, goop, finger painting, water play and more.

CLOTHING

Aim

To ensure that all children attending preschool are clothed appropriately to promote safety, comfort, independence, and full participation in the preschool program.

Strategies

Play clothes: Parents are encouraged to dress children in "play clothes" for preschool. Clothes should be comfortable, so they do not restrict movement during play, and practical, so children can manage fastenings for independent dressing and toileting. Children should be dressed in clothes that are able to get messy at preschool. Aprons are available to protect clothes, however clothes may get messy during outdoor play or when children are using craft materials.

Loose fitting clothing is best to assist your child to develop their independence when toilet training.

Spare clothes: Each child should have at least one full set of season appropriate clothing in their bag each day. In case of toileting accidents, spills or changes in weather, children need a complete set of spare clothes including socks, underwear, and outer clothes.

Children are encouraged to wear clothes that provide maximum protection from the sun. Singlet tops and dresses without sleeves are not to be worn.

Children are encouraged to bring a warm jumper or jacket, a raincoat, and a spare pair of shoes (if necessary) for outdoor play during the winter months. The staff will monitor the weather to ensure that children are dressed appropriately throughout the day. Please do not dress your child in thongs or gum boots. Socks & joggers are encouraged to maximise gross motor skills.



DAILY REQUIREMENTS

An adequately sized school bag containing:

- Lunch and morning/afternoon tea in a regular sized lunch box (all food containers are refrigerated during the day, so insulated containers are not required). We strongly encourage the use of reusable containers and food wraps. Please consider a lunch box that your child can manage, it is a great idea to practice opening and closing lunch boxes with your child at home, this will build their confidence in the classroom.
- Sunhat with a broad brim or SunSmart Legionnaire cap
- **Large** drink bottle (water only) **600mls is ideal**
- "Crunch & Sip" - please pack a **separate** piece of fruit or veggies for our early morning "fuel break" This is kept in your child's bag **not** the fridge. It is offered between 930 and 10am so it will not spoil.
- A reusable "wet bag" for any wet or soiled clothes is encouraged
- Change of clothes (full set, not just underwear, including socks)
- An extra jacket for unexpected cool weather
- Whilst sunscreen is provided, if your child has sensitivities or if you prefer to use your own sunscreen, we ask that you provide sunscreen and inform staff. Apply sunscreen prior to arrival and staff will top up during the day.

Eco-friendly suggestions:

- reusable toxin-free lunch container made from stainless-steel or food-safe bamboo.
- reusable, non-toxic sandwich and snack bags made from waxed fabric, such as beeswax.
- reusable stainless steel water bottle

All of these items are washable, reusable, and sustainable.

However your child's developing self help skills need to be remembered so use things they can manage.

NUTRITION

Aim

To supervise and assist children in receiving a safe and nutritious diet in accordance with Australian Dietary Guidelines & Get up & Grow: Healthy Eating Physical Activity for Early Childhood.

To provide an environment that promotes relaxed and enjoyable mealtimes that are consistent with family and cultural values while encouraging children to sit and engage with their peers.

Teaching children to have an awareness of good nutrition.

Providing information to help families in choosing food that provides children with the best nutrition for overall good health and development.

Implementation

Staff are happy to support families and parents in selecting suitable nutritious food for lunch boxes. We also provide ideas and links to sites that have creative lunchbox ideas in our Newsletters.

Parents will be advised if their child is not eating or if an item that is not appropriate has been packed in their lunchbox. Children are supervised and supported in correct handwashing procedures before handling food or eating meals or snacks. Food will be stored and served at safe temperatures.

Children are supported to sit and eat with their peers in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. Staff routinely sit with the children at mealtimes and encourage and model healthy food choices. Cultural food choices will be recognised and supported by the service and families are encouraged to share their thoughts and values with respect to food and mealtimes. Each child will be encouraged to bring a piece of fresh fruit, dried fruit, cheese, or vegetables to eat at morning or afternoon tea.

Healthy lunchbox suggestions:

- Sandwiches/wraps/rolls
- Sushi
- Frittata or vegetable slice
- Savoury crackers (such as rice crackers) with toppings
- Vegetable and cheese sticks with dip
- Salad with cold meat, egg and cheese

NO chips, nuts, chocolate, peanut butter, nutella, lollies or rollups should be included in the lunch box.

Please leave these treats for home.

Webpage: www.shoalhavenmobilepreschool.com.au

Email: admin@shoalhavenmobilepreschool.com.au

Office/Correspondence: Cottage 3/80 Park Road Nowra NSW 2541



PEANUTS—All our venues are **NUT FREE**

Aim

To protect the children in our preschool who may have allergies to peanuts and other nut products.

Rationale

Early Childhood Education professionals have a responsibility for the health and welfare of the children in their care. Due to the incidence of peanut allergy in young children in the community it has been agreed that children should not be exposed to nut products whilst at preschool. This policy is provided to protect those children at preschool who suffer from any allergies to peanuts or similar products.

Statement

Children at preschool should not be placed in any situation or environment that could endanger their life, therefore it is our role to notify and educate staff and parents about the dangers that peanuts and other nut products may pose to those who suffer from allergies to these products. Parents will be advised of the policy and encouraged not to provide any peanut or other nut products, even if they are not harmful to their own child.

Strategies

Staff will be educated about the dangers that can be associated with peanuts and similar nut products to children/adults with severe allergies. Information will be passed on to parents to educate them about the increase in severe allergies to these products and the life-threatening dangers they pose.

Parents will be requested not to send **any** nut products to preschool. Products such as peanut butter, Nutella, snack bars and any other products that contain nuts or peanuts listed in the ingredients will not be allowed at preschool. This will protect staff and children that may suffer from these allergies. This does not include products that contain the warning “may contain traces of nuts”.

Parents of children who have a known allergy to nuts or peanuts will be consulted prior to enrolment regarding their child’s ASCIA management plan.

SUN SAFETY

At Central Shoalhaven Mobile Preschool, we follow best practice guidelines to protect children, and educators from the damaging effects of sun exposure. CSMP is registered as a SUNSMART service and follows the recommendations of the Cancer Council of Australia.

All children and staff must wear a hat to protect themselves from the sun while outside. Acceptable styles of hat include Legionnaire style caps, a bucket hat with brim of at least 5 cm and broad brimmed hats. No baseball style caps please, as they do not provide sun protection on the neck and ears.

Sunscreen is provided at preschool, however if your child requires a particular sunscreen due to allergies, sensitivities, or family preference, we ask you to please provide your own sunscreen and that you inform staff.

It a good idea to apply sunscreen at home prior to arriving as it should be applied ½ hr before playing outside.



MEDICATION

Medication will only be administered with written parent/guardian permission, as per our *Administration of Medication Policy*.

Staff will ensure:

- that medication is prescribed by a registered medical practitioner and within the expiry date.
- medication is in its original container with the original label including the name of the child for whom it is prescribed.
- the medication is used in accordance with the label and instructions.
- they have written consent from parents/guardians before administering any medication (the only exception is in the case of asthma & anaphylaxis emergency or if administered by emergency services).
- that a medication record is kept for each child enrolled at the service.
- that two staff members witness the administration of any authorised medication.

A short-term medication form must be completed at the beginning of every day that a medication needs to be administered. This form needs to be filled and signed by both parent/guardian and a witnessing staff member.

The parent/guardian must sign an authorisation form, allowing staff to administer the medication. No staff member can administer any medication without authorisation. If your child has a condition that requires regular medication (e.g. diabetes, epilepsy, asthma, etc), you will be asked to complete a long-term medication form, allowing staff to administer the medication, along with a risk minimisation plan, communication plan and a medical management plan.

If your child has a condition this **must** be included on the enrolment form, or the preschool advised in writing on diagnosis.

Medical management plans and medication authorisation forms need to be updated regularly. If a medication or dosage needs to be changed, the preschool must be notified, and a new form and plan completed.

If your child does not respond to the medication, you will be contacted and may be requested to collect your child immediately. If it is a medical emergency, emergency services will be called first.

NO MEDICATION CAN BE LEFT IN BAGS AT ANY TIME/ ALL MEDICATION MUST BE HANDED TO STAFF DIRECTLY AND LOCKED IN A CHILDSAFE CONTAINER.

IMPORTANT If your child suffers from any medical conditions, including allergies, please let us know!

ACCIDENTS

The utmost care is taken of the children whilst attending preschool. Staff will follow our *Administration of First Aid Policy* if any accidents occur that require first aid.

Staff will ensure:

- parents/guardians are contacted as soon as possible if a serious incident has occurred that requires first aid or emergency services to attend.
- all accidents and illnesses will be recorded, and parents asked to sign this form to ensure the information has been passed onto families.
- all permanent staff have up to date first aid qualifications.

Please ensure we have current contact phone numbers, addresses and emergency contacts. In the case of emergency, it is crucial that this information is up to date. If there are any changes, please inform us immediately.



INFECTIOUS DISEASES

CSMP is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all children, staff and visitors. Staff will follow our *Dealing with Infectious Diseases Policy* and recommendations from *Staying Healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services. 5th Ed.* Available online at:

<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/staying-healthy-preventing-infectious-diseases-early-childhood-education-and-care-services>

If a child is displaying ANY cold/flu type symptoms (including a cough and/or runny nose), parents/guardians will be contacted and asked to collect their child from preschool.

Parents must inform the preschool Director if a child has been tested for Covid-19 and supply evidence of the result of the test.

COVID-19 Action plans are in place when deemed necessary by management and staff.

The following are the minimum times that a child must be excluded from preschool if they contract the following diseases. Children will be allowed to return to preschool before these times have elapsed if a Doctor's Certificate is presented stating that the child is no longer infectious.

<u>ILLNESS</u>	<u>CHILDREN WHO HAVE ILLNESS</u>	<u>THOSE IN CONTACT</u>
CONDITION	EXCLUSION OF CASE	EXCLUSION OF CONTACT
Campylobacter infection	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded
Candidiasis (thrush)	Not excluded	Not excluded
Cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection	Not excluded	Not excluded
Conjunctivitis	Exclude until discharge from the eyes has stopped, unless a doctor has diagnosed non-infectious conjunctivitis	Not excluded
Cryptosporidium	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded
Diarrhoea (no organism identified)	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded
Fungal infections of the skin or nails (e.g. Ringworm, tinea)	Exclude until the day after starting appropriate antifungal treatment	Not excluded
Giardiasis	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded
Glandular fever (mononucleosis) Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) infection	Not excluded	Not excluded
Hand, foot, and mouth disease	Exclude until all blisters have dried	Not excluded
Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib)	Exclude until the person has received appropriate antibiotic treatment for at least 4 days	Not excluded Contact a public health unit for specialist advice



CONDITION	EXCLUSION OF CASE	EXCLUSION OF CONTACT
Head lice (pediculosis)	Not excluded if effective treatment begins before the next day at the education and care service. The child must be collected and treated before returning to preschool	Not excluded
Hepatitis A	Exclude until a medical certificate of recovery is received and until at least 7 days after the onset of jaundice	Not excluded Contact a public health unit for specialist advice about vaccinating or treating children in the same room or group
Hepatitis B	Not excluded	Not excluded
Hepatitis C	Not excluded	Not excluded
Herpes simplex (cold sores, fever blisters)	Not excluded if the person can maintain hygiene practices to minimise the risk of transmission. If the person cannot comply with these practices (e.g. because they are too young), they should be excluded until the sores are dry. Sores should be covered with a dressing where possible	Not excluded
Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)	Not excluded If the person is severely immune compromised, they will be vulnerable to other people's illnesses	Not excluded
Human parvovirus B19 (fifth disease, erythema infectiosum, slapped cheek syndrome)	Not excluded	Not excluded
Hydatid disease	Not excluded	Not excluded
Impetigo	Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has started Any sores on exposed skin should be covered with a watertight dressing	Not excluded
Influenza and influenza-like illnesses	Exclude until person is well	Not excluded
Listeriosis	Not excluded	Not excluded



CONDITION	EXCLUSION OF CASE	EXCLUSION OF CONTACT
Measles	Exclude for 4 days after the onset of the rash	Immunised and immune contacts are not excluded For non-immunised contacts, contact a public health unit for specialist advice All immunocompromised children should be excluded until 14 days after the appearance of the rash in the last case
Meningitis (viral)	Exclude until person is well	Not excluded
Meningococcal infection	Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has been completed	Contact a public health unit for specialist advice about antibiotics and/or vaccination for people who were in the same room as the case
Molluscum contagiosum	Not excluded	Not excluded
Mumps	Exclude for 9 days or until swelling goes down (whichever is sooner)	Not excluded
Norovirus	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 48 hours	Not excluded
Pertussis (whooping cough)	Exclude until 5 days after starting appropriate antibiotic treatment, or for 21 days from the onset of coughing	Contact a public health unit for specialist advice about excluding non-vaccinated contacts, or antibiotics
Pneumococcal disease	Exclude until person is well	Not excluded
Roseola	Not excluded	Not excluded
Ross River virus	Not excluded	Not excluded
Rotavirus infection	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 24 hours	Not excluded
Rubella (German measles)	Exclude until the person has fully recovered or for at least 4 days after the onset of the rash	Not excluded
Salmonellosis	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded
Scabies	Exclude until the day after starting appropriate treatment	Not excluded
Shigellosis	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded
Streptococcal sore throat (including scarlet fever)	Exclude until the person has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and feels well	Not excluded
Toxoplasmosis	Not excluded	Not excluded



CONDITION	EXCLUSION OF CASE	EXCLUSION OF CONTACT
Tuberculosis (TB)	Exclude until medical certificate is produced from the appropriate health authority	Not excluded Contact a public health unit for specialist advice about screening, antibiotics, or specialist TB clinics
Varicella (chickenpox)	Excluded until all blisters have dried – this is usually at least 5 days after the rash first appeared in non-immunised children, and less in immunised children	Any child with an immune deficiency (for example, leukaemia) or receiving chemotherapy should be excluded for their own protection as they are at high risk of developing severe disease, otherwise not excluded
Viral gastroenteritis (viral diarrhea)	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded
Vomiting	Exclude for 24 hours after last episode	Not excluded
Worms	Exclude if loose bowel motions are occurring Exclusion is not necessary if treatment has occurred	Not excluded

CONCERNS OR COMPLAINTS

Any concerns or complaints are encouraged to be taken up with the person involved. Request to have a chat with staff so they can arrange an appropriate time for both parties to engage in a conversation in a private setting. Alternatively contact the Director or the Executive Management Committee.

Director email: director@shoalhavenmobilepreschool.com.au

Committee email: csmp.committee@gmail.com

If still unresolved you can contact our regulatory body:

Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate
Locked Bag 5107
Parramatta NSW 2124
Email: ececd@det.nsw.edu.au
Phone 1800 619 113

ASSISTANCE

If you require any assistance with the content of this document, please speak with one of our staff members and they will help.

T.I.S

Translating and Interpreting Service
 24-hour telephone service: Phone 131 450

T.I.S can assist preschool parents, carers, and guardians with translating information into the first language of their

Webpage: www.shoalhavenmobilepreschool.com.au
Email: admin@shoalhavenmobilepreschool.com.au
Office/Correspondence: Cottage 3/80 Park Road Nowra NSW 2541

