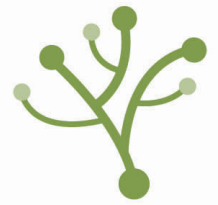


# FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

# NEWS

## APRIL 2020



CORANGAMITE  
SHIRE

family & children's services

## Keep your kids enrolled in care and support the sector

With so much information to process and an ever-changing situation, many of us are struggling to work out where we stand with regard to the containment measures in effect to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

One message being sent loud and clear from the early childhood sector is 'Keep your kids enrolled in care.' **This message has been buoyed by the Federal Government's announcement of free child care for parents who currently send their kids to child care.**

With many parents concerned about keeping their children safe and oblique messages surrounding the status of schools and early childhood services, a large number of parents have chosen to keep their children at home.



While early childhood services and associations support the decision by parents to keep their children home they are imploring parents to keep them enrolled in their service even if they are not attending.

This is to ensure early childhood services can remain viable in the short term and reopen once the current restrictions have been lifted.

**For advice, call Corangamite Shire on 5593 7100.**

## Tips for dealing with Coronavirus anxiety from Australian Psychological Society

### 1. Learn the facts

Try to limit media exposure and instead seek out factual information such as the Australian Government's [health alert](#)

### 2. Keeps things in perspective

When we are stressed, it is easy to see things as worse than they really are. Rather than imagining the worst and worrying about it, ask yourself:

- Remind yourself that the actual number of confirmed cases of coronavirus in Australia is extremely low

### 3. Answer your children's questions

Do not be afraid to talk about the coronavirus with children. Providing opportunities to answer questions in an honest and age appropriate way

can help reduce any anxiety:

- Speak to them in a calm manner
- Ask them what they already know about the virus so you can clarify any misunderstandings
- Let them know it is normal to experience some anxiety when new and stressful situations arise
- Give them a sense of control by explaining what they can do to stay safe
- Do not overwhelm them with unnecessary information
- Reassure them that coronavirus is less common and severe in children compared to adults

## FOCUSING ON LEARNING at Timboon FDC



Everyday repair tasks are learning experiences at Karen Morriss' Family Day Care.

"Today we had an issue with the kitchen set being damaged." Educator retrieved some tools with the intention of fixing the problem. The boys were so excited to see the screwdrivers and immediately set about fixing [and unscrewing!] every screw they could find!

They definitely showed some skill and absolute enthusiasm for this project! We have since extended on this learning by adding the tap tap hammer board with shapes, woodwork boards with hammers, nails, screwdrivers and screws and the children's tool boxes. These activities promote fine motor development, problem solving and positive collaboration with others.

## HARMONY DAY at Timboon Kinder



On Thursday 19 March we celebrated Harmony Day with the children of Green Group.

The continuing message of Harmony Day is 'Everybody Belongs' and its annual observance encourages inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural background.

We discussed what Harmony Day was about and the children were encouraged to wear something orange, which is the colour of Harmony Day. We were pleased to see so many children wear a touch of orange.

We looked at photos of people that represented different cultures, abilities, heights, ages, hair, skin and eye colours and discussed how we would treat all of these people. We talked about how we would treat all of these people and thought we would be kind to everyone because it doesn't matter what we look like on the outside. We discussed what 'respect' means and the importance of respecting all people.

## CONNECT WITH US Corangamite Shire Family & Children's Services

[www.corangamite.vic.gov.au](http://www.corangamite.vic.gov.au)

[www.facebook.com/cschildrengservices/](https://www.facebook.com/cschildrengservices/)

[www.facebook.com/CorangamiteShire/](https://www.facebook.com/CorangamiteShire/)  
[twitter.com/CorangamiteSC](https://twitter.com/CorangamiteSC)

[www.instagram.com/corangamiteshire/](https://www.instagram.com/corangamiteshire/)



## FEEDBACK

Your opinion is important to us, click on this link to provide feedback on the service:

[www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/  
Contact/Feedback](http://www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Contact/Feedback)

# IMPORTANCE OF GOOD HYGIENE AND EXERCISE

## Handwashing with Amanda Nash

Amanda Nash from Timboon Health Services came to talk to the children (both Gold, Green and Red Groups) about the importance of washing their hands thoroughly.

Amanda put each child's hands under an ultraviolet light so that they could see the spots that they need to wash more carefully. The important message was you need to wash for 20 seconds or sing Happy Birthday twice.



## Morning exercise

Gold Group are participating in an exercise program each morning when they come to kinder.

The children run around the lower playground at least two times and then complete a series of exercises. This is part of our SRF plan and hopefully the exercise will vary and include Yoga and Tai Chi.



## Hut building

The children went to inspect the new hut that Barb was building in the playground.

Some of the children who attend the After Kinder and After School Care program helped Barb to design the structure and were very keen to see it.



# ENROL IN FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Enrolment for all Council run Children's Services can be completed online on the Council web page.

<https://www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Community/Family-Children-Services/Enrolment-Forms>

Once the new combined form is completed enrolling in a different Council Early Years' Service will be as simple as a phone call.

To update details or add an additional child to an existing enrolment just visit the Council website and click on the button.

[Update details / Enrol additional child](#)

## VACANCIES

### AFTER KINDERGARTEN & AFTER SCHOOL CARE

- Terang - Monday to Thursday
- Timboon - Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

### FAMILY DAY CARE

- Timboon - Friday
- Cobden - Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

### CHILDCARE


- Port Campbell - Thursday and Friday
- Ecklin - Thursday
- Derrinallum - some availability depending on age of child

**Call us on 5593 7100 to talk about a place for your child.**

## Maternal & Child Health



 Still immunising

 Consultations  
via phone

Call us on  
1800 552 902 for  
appointments

For general advice  
call Maternal Child  
Health line 13 22 29



## COMING UP

**3-12 April:** National Youth Week

**7 April:** World Health Day

**10 April:** Good Friday

**13 April:** Easter Monday

**23 April:** World Book Day

**25 April:** Anzac Day

## POLICIES:

[Family and Children's Services policies are available at www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Policies](#)

## INFO BOOK:

Available at:  
[www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Enrol](http://www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Enrol)

