

[← Back to the Corkboard](#)

This is how your child care centre supports social distancing

June 03, 2020



As parents, we want to know that our little ones are safe while they are attending their child care centre.

To give you some peace of mind, we spoke with Nikki Ferrari, Centre Manager at [Bluebird Early Education in Cranbourne](#).

We asked Nikki about all the ways her centre is supporting families during the Coronavirus, and how the centre has implemented the new social distancing rules to keep little ones safe.

[← Back to the Corkboard](#)



New drop off and pick up routine

Nikki explained that the way that the children are dropped off and picked up at the centre has now changed. 'We have implemented only ONE member of the family coming to drop off and pick up, to reduce the number of people coming in or out and the potential to spread germs,' she explained.

Other centres have implemented policies where an educator will meet the child outside at the front gate and take them in, so that no parents need to enter the centre at all.

When the child is ready to be collected in the afternoon, the parent will press the intercom and an educator will come out with their children.

In both scenarios, parents are still able to chat with the educators about their child's day, ask any questions and get feedback - all from a safe, socially distant 1.5m away.

Extra days when needed

Nikki's centre, along with all of those in Australia, is currently able to offer free child care thanks to the [government's announcement](#) in April 2020. This also includes the provision to offer priority placement to parents who are [essential workers](#).

'We have also been opening up extra spots to families who need it. We have one family whose Mum is a nurse, she's been able to pick up extra shifts because we have been able to increase days for her kinder age child and offer before and after school care for her oldest child also.'

Hand sanitising stations

Nikki shared another way that they are preventing the spread of germs in

 [Back to the Corkboard](#)



all studios,' Nikki said. 'All people need to be sanitising upon arrival and departure.'

This is a simple technique to ensure that everyone's hands are clean as they move around the centre.

Washing hands

Within each of the rooms in the child care centre, washing hands has become part of the regular routine. 'We have added hand washing and hygiene into all of our studios daily,' shared Nikki.

Cleanliness, germs and handwashing has become a topic that all of the educators are using within their programming. They are sharing the information on the free app for parents and ensuring it is part of their future planning for the children's curriculum.

The children are not just washing hands before and after meals or snacks. They are washing hands between activities, when they've been digging in the veggie garden, or when they move from outside to inside for example.

Educators that prepare food for the children are being extra vigilant with their hygiene practices during this time.

Changes to excursions and incursions

At present, the children at Nikki's centre have put their [excursions to the Botanic Gardens](#), the library, the local park, or their local primary schools on hold.

Instead, educators have had to get even more creative to keep their students entertained. The use of technology has been so helpful for centres looking for a way to introduce a new concept or skill.

Children are introduced to online programs that help them learn a

 [Back to the Corkboard](#)



Parent's app

Parents love to see what their child is getting up to while they are at child care, and now more than ever they want to know that they're safe.

At Bluebird Cranbourne, educators use an app called EDUCA which gives parents free access to images and updates from their child's day. This offers peace of mind to parents, as they see their child participating in the rituals such as hand washing and playing in a safe environment.

Community pantry

With so many families affected by job losses, reduction in hours, extra shifts for essential workers, illness or other disruptions, Nikki and some other parents wanted to offer some practical help.

'We have a community pantry that is set up in our foyer area for our families to collect any items they need or want, and they can also leave items for other families.

During this time a lot of our families have been dropping off items such as nappies, wipes, toilet paper and pasta, as a way of helping one another out.'

A happy environment

For the educators, providing a happy, calm and safe environment for children is their main priority.

While they can explain the reasoning behind the new safety measures, they ensure that the children are not left feeling worried or anxious about what is going on in the outside world.

'By providing a calm and nurturing environment, children will be free to play, learn and discover the world around them,' says Nikki.

You can find out more about [Bluebird Early Education in Cranbourne](#) here,

[← Back to the Corkboard](#)

Sign up to our newsletter

The Toddle newsletter contains all the latest updates from our team, including tips and information on child care from our Corkboard blog.

Enter your email

e.g. jillsmith@mail.com

Sign Up

You can unsubscribe from the newsletter at any time.



WRITTEN BY

Lee Price

Toddle is the most comprehensive child care finder in Australia, on a mission to make parents' lives easier.

[← Back to the Corkboard](#)

This Sydney child care centre offers optional swimming lessons for children

This child care centre is giving busy parents a helping hand by taking their children to swimming lessons.

27 JULY 2020

[Read More >](#)

[← Back to the Corkboard](#)



ADULTS

An educator explains why your children sleep so well at child care.

23 JULY 2020

[Read More >](#)

Receive a \$500 Coles Group gift card when you enrol at a G8 centre in Australia

Enrol your child at any G8 centre to receive a \$500 Coles Group gift card.

14 JULY 2020

[Read More >](#)

[See All Articles >](#)

[HOME >](#)
[THE CORKBOARD BLOG >](#)
[THIS IS HOW YOUR CHILD CARE CENTRE SUPPORTS SOCIAL DISTANCING](#)

Child Care Locations

Australian Capital Territory

Adelaide

New South Wales

Brisbane

Northern Territory

Canberra

Victoria

Darwin

[← Back to the Corkboard](#)



South Australia

Melbourne

Tasmania

Perth

Western Australia

Sydney

Connect With Us

[About Us](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Features](#)

[Sitemap](#)

[Terms & Conditions](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Register/Claim your listing](#)

Follow Us

