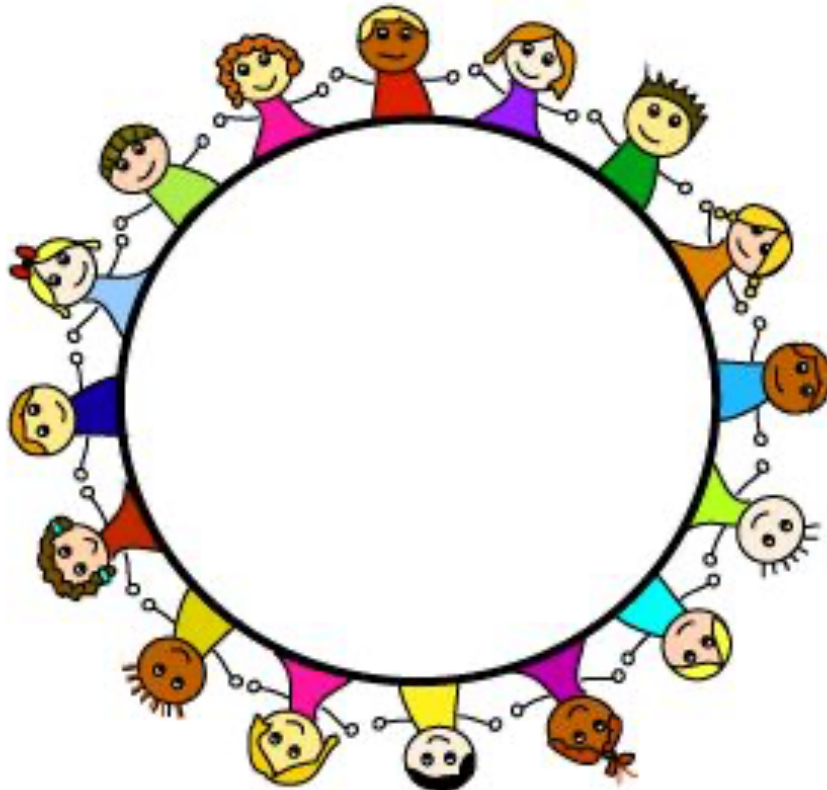




Belford Oaks



Belford Oaks community children's centre

Parent information booklet

Welcome to the Belford Oaks community children's centre (BOCCC)

This handbook has been prepared by the educators and parents of Belford oaks as a comprehensive guide for new families to the centre. We ask that you take the time to read through this handbook, so that you can fully understand the management and operation of the centre.

At Belford oaks we strive to create a welcoming atmosphere and provide ongoing support to all families.

We are committed to assisting all families from a variety of cultural backgrounds; If you should need any help understanding this handbook please don't hesitate to contact the director and they will make arrangements.

Statement of philosophy

Acknowledgement to Country

"We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we live and learn. We pay our respects to them for their care of the land over countless generations. We hope they will walk with us on our journey as we share friendship together".

"Going Bush".

Nadia Wheatley & Ken Searle

OUR PLACE

Belford Oaks is a modest and welcoming community-based children's centre, established in 1988 with 32 prosperous years under its belt. We are central to the Boroondara community and surrounded by many beautiful oak trees, fundamental to our name.

We offer a government funded kindergarten program built into a long-day care setting proudly maintaining a rating of exceeding the National Quality Standards. We educate children ranging in age from 6 months to school aged.

The Belford oaks community is comprised of a passionate team of qualified early childhood educators, who are professional, dedicated, experienced, informed and deliberate in their teachings.

Belford oaks is overseen by a committee of parents who serve to empower and strengthen our team, allowing our educators to provide the best learning opportunities for all.

OUR BELIEFS

At Belford Oaks we view the child as protagonist in their education and development, strongly believing they learn best through hands-on play in an inquiry-based model of learning. At Belford Oaks we create and facilitate a stimulating learning environment; one that promotes happiness and a desire to play and learn. We believe children are independent in their decision making and strive to encourage their autonomy by providing for choice in all aspects of the program. We believe children are expressive communicators, collaborative learners, creative, capable and inquisitive. For this reason, we have created an open-ended learning environment that caters to and builds on these wonderful qualities.

The educators at Belford Oaks believe children prosper in a safe, nurturing, healthy, communicative, respectful and inclusive environment. Our main goal at Belford Oaks is to assist children to develop and grow into responsible, confident, creative, empathetic active citizens of their world. We strive to contribute to this daily, through recognition and celebration of the children's achievements, encouragement and constant support.

We draw inspiration from the Reggio Emilia approach to learning, and through this way of teaching we understand that each child brings with them a unique set of values, beliefs, experiences, thoughts and ideas. We view our role as educators, as collaborative learners and co-researchers. Through this approach we are responsible for observing and listening to the children, educating ourselves about their interests and planning and providing them with a meaningful curriculum in which they have ample opportunities to construct their own understandings and explore their interests further, while contributing to the learning and development of not only themselves but those around them.

Drawing inspiration from the Reggio Emilia philosophy of learning also means that we respect the kitchen as an integral part of the program and the heart of the centre. We stay informed regarding healthy eating practices and research to ensure we provide 3 nutritionally balanced meals a day, while educating the children around healthy choices.

The educators at Belford Oaks recognise the environment as the 3rd teacher, Family and home being the 1st and us as educators the 2nd and therefore place great emphasis on exploring the natural environment. We strongly believe in not over stimulating the children and instead, we offer inspiring open-ended experiences and learning opportunities. These experiences are not controlled by pre-set limitations but offer endless opportunities for learning, growth, discovery and development. The educators and the environment they create respect the children as strong, resilient and capable beings, providing them with authentic materials and tools within a beautifully rich environment. Such materials are carefully selected by educators for their potential to enhance learning and discovery.

We view the outdoors as a learning space with potential for holistic development (physical, cognitive, emotional, social and spiritual). Providing an indoor/outdoor program we nurture the children's creative intelligence, language, literacy and numeracy development through multi-sensory experiences and environments. All the while supporting their wellbeing through a plethora of physical play spaces and programs.

Our practices and programs are strongly influenced by the Victorian Early Years Learning & Development Framework (VEYLDF), Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF), National Quality Framework (NQF) and the Early Childhood Australian Code of ethics as well as a number of theoretical perspectives and current research.

OUR COMMITMENTS

Child safety is embedded in our culture at Belford oaks. We are committed to ensuring the safety and protection of all children as well as continually educating children about their rights. Educators aim to empower children through active listening and assisting them to develop a sense of belonging and a feeling of safety and security within their environment.

We acknowledge the diverse backgrounds of all children families and educators. Believing in equality for all we strive to instil the powerful message of acceptance, regardless of gender, race, ability, social or family structure.

We respect and understand the unique place the Indigenous Australian and Torres Strait Islander cultures hold in Australia and we are committed to creating and fostering a valued connection with these cultures.

We are committed to helping the children understand the importance of looking after their natural world. We promote sustainable practices by encouraging responsibility for their classroom, the outdoor spaces and in turn the world in which they live.

We are committed to educating the children about road safety; keeping them safe while travelling as pedestrians, cyclists and passengers in a vehicle and providing them with the opportunity to participate in road safety education to assist them in being and becoming safe and responsible road users.

We are committed to engaging in regular and ongoing critical reflection. We use professional development combined with in house mentoring to enhance our skills and knowledge consistent with any and all change in the early childhood sector. Through this we ensure continuous improvement, best practice and quality outcomes for all.

OVERVIEW

Opening in 1988 we are a non for profit, community-based centre situated amongst the beautiful oak trees, which is where we get our name from. We are a 35 place centre and have 3 rooms within the centre; the 6mth-2years room which cater to 10 children a day, the 2-3years room which also caters to 10 children a day and the kindergarten/3-5years room which caters to 15 children per day. The city of Boroondara owns the building and the land it is situated on, which they lease to the Kew full day care centre Inc. The operation of the service is the responsibility of the families who attend Belford Oaks (committee of management).

HOURS OF OPERATION

The centre's hours of operation are from 7:30am to 6:00pm.

Parents must collect their child by 6:00pm; any parents who collect their children after 6:00pm will be charged a "late fee". The late fees are \$1 a minute for the first 10 minutes and they increase to \$5 a minute for every minute thereafter. It is understandable that parents may be unavoidably late at times and where possible parents will need to contact the centre before 6:00pm and inform the educators that they will be late to collect their child from the centre.

CENTRE CLOSURES

Belford Oaks will be closed for all public holidays recognised by the Victorian government. Fees will be charged for these days, with the exception of those public holidays which fall in the Christmas and New Year's period.

During the Christmas and New Year's period the centre is closed for approximately 3 weeks. The committee of management make the final decision on these dates and parents will be given plenty of notice. The Christmas break includes pack up day and set up day for the educators.

Fees are not charged for the Christmas and New Year's break.

As we have a commitment to continuous improvement and further education and development for our educators there will be 2 additional days throughout the year (We aim to keep these days around April/May and September/October) where the centre will be closed to hold professional development sessions for educators. Parents will be informed of these dates with plenty of prior notice and fees are not charged for these closures.

PAYMENT OF FEES

Fees are payable for everyday of your child's enrolment at Belford oaks including absent/sick days, family holidays etc.

* all fees are required to be paid in full 2 weeks in advance.

* if paying via direct debit please make sure the payment is marked "BOCCC fees with the child's name"

*When paying directly into our bank account a receipt is required for cross referencing and to ensure that you have included your child's name in the details.

Bank account details: Account name: Kew Full Day Care Centre Inc. Bank: National Australia Bank (NAB) BSB: 083543 Account number: 047680453
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Full fees will be charged in a child's absence. Please Note if 10 working days' notice is given regarding the child's absence and the centre is able to fill the space on those days then fees will not be charged. Full fees will be charged if we are unable to "sell" the days to another family.

Outstanding fees

A child's place cannot be maintained if fees are outstanding for more than 1 month. Fees are reviewed annually by the director and the management committee and are subject to change. Parents will receive their invoices on a weekly basis via email.

Childcare Subsidy (CCS)

The Child Care Subsidy is the main way the Government assists families with their child care fees.

The Child Care Subsidy that commenced on 2 July 2018:

- replaced the Child Care Benefit (CCB) and Child Care Rebate (CCR) with a single, means-tested subsidy
 - is generally paid directly to child care providers to be passed on to families
 - is simpler than the previous multi-payment system
- is better targeted and provides more assistance to low and middle-income families.

Child Care Subsidy Eligibility

Some basic requirements must be satisfied for an individual to be eligible to receive Child Care Subsidy for a child. These include:

- the age of the child (must be aged 13 or under and not attending secondary school, except in certain circumstances where an individual may be eligible for a child who does not meet this criteria, such as children with a disability or medical condition in certain circumstances)
 - the child meeting immunisation requirements
- the individual, or their partner, meeting the residency requirements listed in the legislation.

In addition, to be eligible for Child Care Subsidy the individual must be liable to pay for care provided, the care must be delivered in Australia by an approved child care provider, and not be part of a compulsory education program.

Child Care Subsidy entitlement

There are three factors that determine a family's level of Child Care Subsidy. These are:

- Combined annual family income
 - Activity test – the activity level of both parents
- Service type – type of child care service and whether the child attends school

The Child Care Subsidy is generally paid directly to service providers to be passed on to families as a fee reduction. Families make a co-contribution to their child care fees and pay to the provider the difference between the fee charged and the subsidy amount.

There is also targeted additional fee assistance for vulnerable families through the Child Care Safety Net.

PRIORITY OF ACCESS

Access to a place within a childcare centre is subject to the Commonwealth guidelines and guidelines adopted by the centre.

Commonwealth guidelines are primarily referred to when a service has a long waiting list and a number of families are competing for limited places.

Priority of access guidelines:

- 1st priority – a child at risk of serious abuse or neglect.
- 2nd priority – a child of a single parent, or both parents who satisfy the work/study/training test under section 14 of the Family Assistance Act.
- 3rd priority – child/ren of families already accessing the service
- 4th priority – any other child/ren

Within each priority mentioned above, the following children are to be given priority

- Children of Indigenous Australian or Torres Strait Islander families
- Children in families which include a person with a disability

- Children in families which include an individual whose taxable income percentage (under clause 7 of schedule 20 to the Family Assistance Act) is 100%.
- Children in families with non-English speaking backgrounds.
 - Children in socially isolated families
 - Children of single parents.

The centres guidelines allocate priority for vacancies to parents who live or work within the city of Boroondara, who are existing users or who are on the waiting list. Within these guidelines we will also offer priority to families who use us for their child's funded kindergarten program in the year before school.

In addition the centre considers priority where

- a child has a parent who has a continuing disability or incapacity.
- a parent is at home with more than 1 child under school age.

The amount of care offered is according to individual needs. Care can range from 1 day a week to full time (5days).

COMMUNICATION

Management maintains communication at the centre through the use of email, phone, face to face communication and family pigeon holes. Each family will have a pigeon hole located in the foyer just outside the office. We ask that you regularly empty your pigeon hole as there may be important information relating to your child. All of your invoices and receipts as well as our regular newsletters, centre events calendar, information, policies and centre updates will be sent to you via email.

QUESTIONS & COMPLAINTS

All queries and grievances should be relayed to the director/s who will follow the matter up within the centre or refer you to the management committee if they are unable to answer your questions or resolve any grievances.

COMPLAINTS DIRECTED TO THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

In the case of a complaint/grievance or clients are unhappy with a decision made by the director/s you will have the opportunity to write a letter addressed to the secretary prior to the next upcoming committee meeting or alternatively attend a meeting. A complete list of meeting dates and times is located in the foyer of the building on the information board. If you wish to attend a committee meeting for this reason please inform the director so that the items for discussion can be included in the agenda.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Belford Oaks is a community based centre; this means that the centre is managed by a committee of management made up of parents whose children attend the centre. The management committee is responsible for the overall running of the centre. Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of every month after the educator's meetings. These meetings are to discuss future plans, current issues and make decisions which concern the running of the centre. An annual general meeting is held in October of every year, during which the committee report back to parents on the previous year and a new management

committee is elected. The committee works in collaboration with the families, the director and educators to ensure the children get the best possible care and education. Our centre is funded through the collection of fees; fundraising provides some additional support. The centre actively seeks involvement in commonwealth and state funding initiatives where ever possible. To keep outgoing costs to a minimum we rely on the Belford Oaks community to assist in the management and maintenance of the centre. Becoming a part of the management committee, taking part in working bees or helping on sub committee's (e.g. Fundraising) are essential in achieving this.

When starting at the centre you will be asked to nominate how and/or when you will be able to assist the centre. These forms have detailed information as to what is expected from the families in regards to commitments.

"Community based" means we aim to provide the best care for your children at minimal costs to families. However, to continue to maintain our fees at a reasonable level we need and depend on your involvement and support.

INTRODUCING YOUR CHILD TO OUR CENTRE (ORIENTATION)

For most children childcare may be their first experience away from their families. Most children will experience some level of anxiety leaving their parents for the first few times.

It is very important that the parents and educators work closely together to build a collaborative relationship which is necessary to the child's adjustment into care. If your child has previous experience in a childcare setting they will still need time to adjust to their new educators.

As a part of the orientation process at Belford Oaks we require that you contact the director and/or the educators within the room to organise a time to visit. Opportunities for orientation will assist your child in the settling process, enabling your child and yourself to become familiar with the surroundings, the environment and the educators.

With the aim of creating a smooth transition into care the following guidelines have been developed. The orientation process is customised to each child and family and their needs.

* Visit the centre as many times as possible before your child's first day without you at the centre.

* The best times to visit are between 9:30-11am and 2:30-4pm.

*Until your child is officially enrolled you must not leave the premises.

*it is recommended that you stay with your child and spend some time with them in the new environment. We recommend that you stay with your child for the first 1-2 visits to the room. This shows your child that you are comfortable within the environment and trust the educators which contributes positively to the children sense of belonging, comfort and confidence within the new environment.

* In the initial settling process it is recommended that your child only stay for short periods of time. These periods of time can be slowly increased as your child's becomes more familiar with the environment. If you are unable to collect your child during these shorter hours, we recommend that you arrange for another family member or friend to collect them.

* please, always say goodbye to your child! We recognise this may be difficult for you but

once you have decided it's time to say goodbye, do just that.

* To assist at separation times try to appear confident and positive. Children have innate intuition and can sense hesitation or uneasiness. Your positivity and confidence will help contribute to a smoother settling process for the child.

*The settling in process may take longer if you linger and/or re-enter the room once you have said your goodbyes. Our educators are experienced in settling children into new environments, trying to always accommodate individual child's and family's needs.

*Bring a comforter of some description with you e.g., a soft toy, dummy or something that has your scent on it.

* There are many strategies that educators can put into place to assist your child in settling in. Don't give up, almost all children settle into care and having it become a positive experience.

* We encourage all parents to phone during the day to see how your child is going. We would much prefer you to call rather than worry.

ASSESSMENT AND RATING

In order to maintain our exceeding quality standards status at Belford Oaks and build on this we are continually collaborating with families and educators to reflect on, evaluate and make any necessary changes to our policies and procedures. As a parent your involvement is essential; being a community based centre we rely on family's involvement and participation in the running of the service. Please become involved as we are sure you will find the process interesting and rewarding.

PROGRAMING AND PLANNING

The educators plan and program for their respective rooms through the use of observations, information from families and through conversations and interactions with the children. Being inspired by the Reggio Emilia philosophy to children's learning, we understand through this approach, that children use many different ways to express their thoughts and creativity. The Educators at Belford Oaks recognise the environment as the third teacher and therefore create beautiful and thoughtful play spaces. We understand it is our role as Educators to observe and listen to children, find out their interests and provide them with opportunities to explore these interests further. Each child's current knowledge, ideas, culture, abilities and interests are the foundation of the program. The program including routine is organised in ways that maximise opportunities for each child's learning. The educators implement spontaneous and planned experiences within the environment and observe the children as they explore and learn. Every child has a portfolio, in which educators put a variety of pieces; learning stories, observations, artwork etc. The portfolios are available to parents to take home for the evening and look through at any time. Parents are also more than welcome to approach the educators and talk to them about their child. If you have any concerns about your child's health, wellbeing or development do not hesitate to talk to us.

REST AND RELAXATION

6mnth – 2years

When it comes to sleep time in this age group the educators endeavour to follow the same routine the parents are implementing at home. The educators collaborate with parents and communicate their needs for sleep, doing their best to accommodate them.

Educators also judge the children's need for sleep on a daily basis using their body language as cues. There are 6 cots in the room which the younger children sleep in. The older children sleep on mattresses. The children are given their sleep items and comforted if need be.

2-3years

The children in this room sleep from about 12-2pm but are able to sleep as little or as much as they need (unless otherwise requested by parents). Most of the children within this age group are still sleeping during the day; for those who are not they are provided with a quiet area to rest and relax. Relaxing music is played to encourage the children to sleep and educators sit with the children if necessary. Once the children have rested they can play quietly within the room or have the choice to go outside.

3-5 years kinder

A rest period is provided from about 12:00-12:30pm, during which the children have a cushion each and they lie on the rug listening to stories or music on the iPad. After they have rested, they then join the Kinder teachers on the mat sharing a group learning session.

All educators will consult with parents in regards to the children's individual sleep/rest needs. It is vital that parents keep educators up to date with sleep restrictions and/or changes throughout the year so they can carry through the home routine to Belford Oaks.

INCURSIONS AND EXCURSIONS

Throughout the year we take part in various activities, some incursions and some excursions. These visits may include but are not limited to mobile animal farms, puppet shows, the zoo, a music production etc. Some of these activities are offered at an additional cost (which will be billed to your account) and parents will be required to sign a permission form prior to the experience to allow their children to take part.

TOYS FROM HOME

We encourage families to keep home toys at home. Acknowledging that sometimes this is not possible please note that if they are brought to the centre, it is yours and your child's responsibility to make sure they go home at the end of the day.

MEAL TIMES

THERE IS TO BE NO OUTSIDE FOOD BROUGHT INTO THE CENTRE!

The children are offered 3 meals a day; a progressive morning tea from between 9am and 10am, Lunch consisting of a 1st and 2nd course and a progressive afternoon tea from between 2pm and 3pm. The children are also offered a late snack consisting of sandwiches, fresh fruit, veggies and cheese at approximately 4:30 in the afternoon.

Lunch in the baby's room begins at 11:15am
Lunch in the toddler room begins at 11:30am
Lunch in the kinder room begins at 11:30am

Meal times within the room are pleasant social occasions, the tables are set with bowls/plates and cutlery and the children are given the opportunity to select where they would like to sit. Educators join the children at the tables and role model appropriate behaviour. When finished the children are encouraged to get up from the table, put their scraps into the appropriate bins and put their empty bowl/plate and cutlery on the bench (except of course in the baby's room). The children are encouraged to try some of everything in front of them and are encouraged to serve their food themselves where appropriate. Any dietary requirements and/or allergies are catered to by the cook and alternatives are prepared. If there are any foods that your child cannot tolerate, please pass this information on to the educators and the cook and provide us with the relevant documentation (allergy and anaphylaxis management plan) to ensure your child's needs are catered to.

The centre has a policy of providing healthy and nutritious meals for the children.

- * Children are offered foods from every food group.
- * The menu reflects an emphasis on low sugar intake and low salt intake (no salt added).
 - * Seasonal fresh fruit and vegetables are offered daily.
 - * Fresh foods are always offered.
- * Children are offered milk with morning tea and afternoon tea and the children's water bottles are easily accessible by the children at all times.
- * **We are a nut free service.** Foods containing any type of nut e.g., nut-based oils will not be used or brought into the centre in any capacity.

A menu is on display at all times in the foyer and in each room as well as on our website where you can see what meals will be served for the week.

Infant formula

Formula is to be brought from home, either prepared or separate and the educators will warm it. If your child is on cow's milk, we provide this, you will just need to bring the bottle.

ALLERGIES

Parents are asked to state on their child's enrolment forms if they have any allergies or intolerances. You will then need to provide the centre with an allergy management plan prepared in consultation with your doctor detailing all relevant information; how to manage an allergic reaction (you will need to provide an epi pen or medication) and what signs and symptoms to look for. A copy of the management plan will be displayed in each room of the centre, in the kitchen and in the staff room to ensure all educators know how to manage any possible reaction.

BEHAVIOUR GUIDANCE

Belford Oaks aims to promote and encourage positive behaviours; our environment enhances respect, self-worth and a strong sense of belonging. The educators encourage the children's independence, sense of agency and ownership of their behaviours. The behaviour management policy can be accessed by families, please just ask the director/s

EQUITY

We endeavour to treat all adults and children equitably and with respect, regardless of their background, culture, ethnicity, language, beliefs, gender, age, socio-economic status, level of ability, additional needs, family structure or lifestyle. We promote inclusive practices and ensure successful participation of all children.

The inclusion and equity policy can also be accessed upon request.

CHILD SAFE ENVIRONMENT POLICY

Belford Oaks has a detailed Child Safe Environment Policy which includes the definition of child abuse, who is mandated to report child abuse, the steps to follow when making a report and the signs and symptoms to look for.

There are processes in place for Belford Oaks staff to support families who have protection issues.

Anyone in a position of authority (director, second in charge, kindergarten teacher, educational leader) within a childcare centre has a legal obligation to report any suspected child abuse. Staff will make a notification to Child Protection Victoria if they have reasonable belief that a child is in need of protection because the child has suffered, or is likely to suffer significant harm as a result of any kind of abuse. Child abuse can include physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, family violence, human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR

It is important that children are dressed in comfortable and practical clothing, which enables them to move freely through the environment, without restriction. Children must be wearing sleeves at all times (singlets are not appropriate). Clothing must be clearly labelled, and the centre will not take responsibility for any lost clothing. Smocks are provided and are worn during art activities and messy play. Please provide at least 2 changes of clean clothes each day. Children should wear footwear that allows them to participate in all experiences and activities safely and comfortably; therefore we ask that children wear safe footwear – no loose fitting or strap on shoes.

Sandals with buckles are acceptable.

No thongs are to be worn at any time when at the centre.

Gumboots can be brought to the centre for outdoor play in the digging patch etc but they are not appropriate for everyday wear.

NAPPIES AND TOILETING

You are required to supply nappies for your child when at the centre. Please bring at least 4 nappies a day. If your child is toileting please supply several complete changes of clothing including shoes and a nappy if your child requires one for sleep/rest time.

SUN SAFETY

Belford Oaks is a member of the Cancer council Victoria's sun smart early childhood program.

When the UV index is above 3 the children are required to wear appropriate hats and sunscreen when in the outdoor environment. They will be provided with a spare hat if there is not one in their bag.

Please provide a clearly labelled wide brimmed hat that offers maximum protection from the sun. The hat must protect their face, neck and ears; caps are not appropriate. The centre provides at minimum of 30 plus sunscreen which will be applied either by the children themselves or by an educator 20 minutes prior to playing outside in the morning and afternoon when the UV index reaches above 3. If your child has sensitive skin you will need to provide your own sensitive sunscreen. There are many shaded areas provided within the environment for the children to explore on those hot days. Educators will model appropriate sun smart behaviour (wearing a hat and sunscreen) to encourage children to do the same.

SICK OR INJURED CHILDREN

If a child becomes sick or injured while at Belford Oaks the parent or guardian will be notified immediately. They will be asked to collect their child or make arrangements for a family member to collect their child within the hour. If the parents cannot be contacted the emergency contact on the enrolment papers will then be contacted.

In the case of an incident where injury has occurred or an emergency resulting in the need for immediate medical attention the director or senior staff member will use their discretion as to whether to contact:

*an ambulance and then the parent

*the parent and advise them of the best procedure.

If the parent or the emergency contact cannot be contacted the staff will not delay in organising proper medical attention. Educators will call emergency services (000) if deemed appropriate.

EDUCATORS WILL NOT TRANSPORT CHILDREN THEMSELVES

Depending on the severity of the injury or illness, every effort will be made to get into contact with parent/guardian before the emergency treatment is sought. If unreachable the enrolment forms enables the director to act in the child's best interests.

In the event of an accident/injury staff will follow the following procedures

*Comfort the child and administer first aid.

*Ensure that all other children are supervised adequately.

*Ring emergency services if necessary

*Contact the parent/guardian or the emergency contact.

* Pass on all relevant information to the department of human services (accidents that require medical attention only).

*Record all relevant details of the injury/illness on an Incident, injury, trauma and illness form. Parents will be required to sign this form when they collect their child.

ILLNESS AND EXCLUSION

When in childcare there is very little that can be done to avoid minor illnesses such as cold and flu. We do our bit by keeping the rooms clean and sanitised and this is why we strongly urge you to keep your children home if they are unwell, to minimise the spread of infection.

It is important when considering childcare that you recognise your children will go through periods of illness, especially when new to this kind of environment. There will need to be someone (parents, grandparents, friends etc) close by to collect your child if they fall ill when at the centre. Parents have the most important role in minimising the spread of infection by making the decision to keep their child home. We understand that due to work commitments it may be difficult to keep your child home but we are unable to care for sick children and it is not fair to spread the germs to the other children and the educators.

With your understanding and help combined with our hygiene practices and procedures we can work together to create a relatively germ free environment.

The department of human services has a list of infectious diseases for which infected children must be excluded from the centre.

It is Belford Oaks' policy to minimise the spread of infection by adopting the following practices

a child should not attend the centre if they have:

* Coronavirus Symptoms- A green/yellow runny nose, an elevated temperature, persistent cough, sore throat, difficulty breathing. Children **ARE** to remain away from the centre until they have received a negative result.

* A temperature (of 38 or above)- Children are to be kept away from the centre for a minimum of 24 hours after the temperature has subsided- also see above for Coronavirus symptoms.

*Diarrhoea – a child with watery stools should not return to the centre until they have been free of the diarrhoea for a minimum of 24 hours.

*Vomiting – a child vomiting should not return to the centre until the vomiting has ceased for at least 24 hours.

*Conjunctivitis – an infection of the eyes characterised by redness, watery eyes and yellow discharge which becomes crusty. This requires medical treatment and cannot return until the discharge has cleared completely.

*Impetigo (school sores) – a contagious infection characterised by crusted sores which usually appear first on the face and may spread to other parts of the body. This condition requires medical treatment and the child must stay home until the sores have healed or treatment has been undertaken for at least 24 hours and the sores are covered.

*Head lice – a child must be excluded until their hair has been treated; other members of the family will also need to be checked.

*Hand foot and mouth disease – a viral infection characterised by a rash and/or blisters mainly on the tongue, gums, mouth, hands, feet and buttocks. This is highly contagious; children must be excluded from the centre until they have fully recovered from the infection.

- *Chicken pox – children cannot attend the centre until fully recovered or blisters have formed scabs.
- *Glandular fever – exclusion is not necessary.
- *Hepatitis B – exclusions not necessary
- *Hepatitis C - exclusions not necessary
- *HIV – exclusion is not necessary
- *Measles – exclude for a minimum of 4 days from the appearance of the rash.
- *Meningitis – Exclude until recovered.
- *Mumps – Exclude for at least 9 days after onset of symptoms.
- *Ringworm – Exclude until the day after treatment has commenced.
- *Rubella – exclude until fully recovered or at least 4 days after the onset of the rash.
- * Streptococcal – exclude until the person has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours.
- *Whooping cough – Exclude for 5 days after beginning antibiotic treatment.

Important notes

These guidelines have been drawn up on the premise that children who have been ill with an infectious disease will not return to the centre until they are fully recovered. The only exception to the rule is that children with certain skin conditions may return once appropriate treatment has commenced. In case of doubt or for guidance about conditions not mentioned on this list, advice should be sought from the centre or alternatively your doctor.

Belford Oaks will keep all families informed of any infectious diseases within the centre at any time. The centre will display information on the front door in regard to the infectious disease and recommended exclusion periods.

IMMUNISATION

Belford Oaks CCC follows the 'No Jab, No Play' legislation. All children are required to be immunised in order to attend the centre. Childhood immunisations must be kept up to date and a copy of your child's immunisation history is to be given to the centre for their records.

MEDICATION

A medication authorisation form must be completed by the parent in order for educators to administer medication to the children. The medication must be prescribed for the child and have the correct dosage and expiry date on the packaging.

Only the prescription or the manufacturer's dosage will be administered; if parents wish for a larger amount to be administered they must provide us with written authority from their doctor. After completing the medication form the medication must be handed to an educator. Please do not leave medication in your child's bag or locker.

It is the responsibility of the parents to collect the medication at the end of the day.

Medication forms

The centre will make sure medication forms are maintained, containing details of:

Parents authorisation

Child's name

Name of medication

Date, time of the last administered dosage

Date, time and dosage to be administered

How the medication is to be administered

Dosage administered by staff

Date and time administered my staff

Name and signature of person who administered the medication

name and signature of the person who witnessed the administering.

All forms will then be kept in each room's medication and accident forms folder.

ASTHMA

If your child suffers from asthma you will need to provide the centre with an asthma plan and inform the staff if your child is on preventative medication or if they require medication during an attack. If your child develops the symptoms of asthma while at the centre it may become necessary to administer medication; usually in the form of an inhaler/puffer. You are required to provide the centre with a labelled puffer and medication to be kept at the centre at all times. If an attack occurs a parent/guardian will be notified and informed that treatment is being administered as per the asthma management plan. If the child continues to struggle to breathe medical advice will be sought. Depending on the severity of the attack parents will be contacted to come and collect their child.

Parents must ensure that the centre always has an up to date copy of your child's asthma plan.

ANAPHYLAXIS

Anaphylaxis is a severe life threatening allergic reaction. The most common causes in children are eggs, peanuts, and dairy or bee stings; the slightest contact with an allergen may result in the loss of life. There are specific treatments to manage the condition including the Epi-pen. Educators are trained and partake in regular refresher courses on how to administer an Epi-pen in an emergency situation. An Epi-pen must be kept with the child at the centre at all times along with an allergy management plan/anaphylaxis action plan which have been completed in consultation with your doctor. It is the parent's responsibility to make sure the centre has an up to date copy of the management and action plans.

Any child who requires the use of an Epi-pen will not be allowed to attend the centre without an Epi-pen in their bag or in the room!

DENTAL HYGIENE

We promote good dental hygiene at Belford Oaks through a low sugar menu, the availability of drinking water at all times and through educational conversations with the children and the educators.

As it is impossible for us to supervise your children brushing their teeth, the dental health foundation recommends that it is essential for parent's to supervise the cleaning of young children's teeth twice a day until the age of 10.

A copy of the centres dental policy is located in the policy folder in the foyer.

SECURITY

The gate leading to the front door is a self-closing gate and the front door is always locked and only accessible by a keypad with a code. Once enrolled, all parents will be given the code to the keypad allowing them to let themselves into the centre during hours. For security reasons this number will be changed every 6 months or so. We ask that you do not give out this number to people who only pick your child up on the odd occasion, one of our staff will be more than happy to let them in if they ring the doorbell.

By no means is this number to be given to siblings to enter into the keypad. The fewer people who know the number the safer it is. Please do not let anyone else into the building e.g., delivery people, please allow them to ring the doorbell and an educator will answer the door ensuring we know who is in the centre at all times.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND/OR CONTACT DETAILS

Please let us know of any changes to contact details or address as soon as practical. It is a parent's responsibility to ensure the centre has their current contact details at all times. If your details change we must be made aware immediately. It is also the parent's responsibility to inform the centre of any changes to details of emergency contacts and "nominated people" to collect your child. This can be done by completing a "change of details" form available from the office.

Please note, it is extremely important that you update your details as soon as possible as educators may need to contact you in an emergency.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES

The centre holds and participates in fire/emergency evacuations drills four times a year.

All educators and children are expected to participate in these drills. The emergency evacuation plan is displayed in every room including the kitchen, bathrooms, laundry, staff room and office. Please see displays in each room.

Each educator has a role to play in an emergency situation and by practicing the procedure regularly we will be experienced in the case of a real emergency situation (another reason why it is vital to keep your records up to date).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The educators at Belford oaks participate in 2 full days within the centre of professional development each year as well as afterhours training and outside the centre training.

Below is a list of training Belford Oaks is committed to providing for their staff:

First aid – staff are trained every 3 years in general first aid, this training is generally conducted by St Johns Victoria.

CPR – this training is updated yearly.

Anaphylaxis – all staff have been trained in the use of an Epi-pen and will be updated every three years with in centre refreshers every year.

Food safety – staff are trained in basic hygiene practices, which allows any of us to step into the kitchen and cook.

Individual training - individual training is provided for educators following their appraisals in order to reach set goals. Training can take place at any time throughout the year and is done through a registered training company such as Gowrie or Early Learning Association

Australia. After attending these training sessions educators are required to share with the other what they have learnt.

Group training – there are 2 days each year where all of the educators complete a training session as a team.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Permission from parents must be gained in order for the educators to take photographs of your children. This permission will be requested on your enrolment papers. The photographs are generally for use within the centre for daily reflections, learning stories and the newsletter.

PARKING

Belford Oaks has a car park at the front of the building which is available to parents (only) at drop off and pick up times.

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY CONTACTS	PHONE NUMBERS
Police	000
Fire	000
Ambulance	000
Poisons information	13 11 26
Child protection crisis line	13 12 78
Maternal child & health (after hours)	13 22 29
Department of education & Early childhood development – Eastern metropolitan region	(03) 9265 2400
Royal children's hospital	(03) 9345 5522
Box Hill hospital	(03) 9895 3333
Austin hospital	(03) 9496 5000
Dental hospital	(03) 9341 0222