



Director-General's COVID-19 UPDATE

Deidre Mulkerin | Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

Dear foster and kinship carers

I hope you all had a relaxing Easter break connecting with your family and friends online or by phone and enjoying some chocolate and Easter treats.

Changes to Term 2 learning

It seems everyone's talking about the recent announcement by Education Queensland that schools and community kindergartens will move to home-based learning for the first five weeks of Term 2.

From 20 April to 22 May, all children who are able to be supervised at home are to stay at home for their schooling. However, Education Queensland also advises children who currently receive services from Child Safety or who are in out-of-home care, can attend school, early childhood education and care, and outside school hours care services. Children will be supervised and will participate in the same learning program as children who are learning at home.

Decisions about a child's attendance at school, early childhood education and care, or outside school hours care service need to be made on a case-by-case basis, and in accordance with the child's case plan. Please contact your child safety officer to talk through the options for children in your household. You can also contact your school, early childhood education and care, and outside school hours care service to discuss further.

If a decision is made to keep the children in your care at home the learning@home site provides a range of additional curriculum resources, to those provided by your school, and provides advice for carers around preparing for learning at home.

Support for children with disability

If you're caring for children with disability, did you know that the NDIS has partnered with supermarkets so that families and carers can get help with grocery shopping?

Rather than having to go to the shops, food and other items can be bought online and delivered to your home. NDIS participants will be provided with a code to shop online at Woolworths, Coles, IGA and Foodworks.

To obtain your code, please talk to your child safety officer.

You'll find more information on the NDIS website and Facebook page.

Support for carers

If you have any questions, please talk to your child safety officer or your foster and kinship care service.



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I also encourage you to download the Carer Connect app to receive notifications on these latest COVID-19 developments.

To assist we have also expanded the Foster and Kinship Care Support Line to provide:

- information about matters related to COVID-19
- crisis response and support
- additional support for carer households
- support for new provisionally approved carers.

You can now call the Foster and Kinship Care Support Line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on 1300 729 309.

As always, please look after yourself, your family and friends.

Warm regards

Deidre Mulkerin
Director-General
Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women