

Hello to our Heritage Community,

We want to ensure all families have received the latest information from the office so apologies if you are reading this a second time.

The last few weeks have been a stressful & uncertain time for all of us. We hope you are all staying healthy and safe. We'd like to firstly thank our families for being so supportive during this time. For now, it's important for everyone to know that we are staying open to provide a service to our community and we will be updating this information as it comes to us. In this email we have identified a few commonly asked questions and our strategies for learning from home. We have also attached our policy relating specifically to COVID-19 for you to have a read if you are unsure of our strategies surrounding this. However, we do strongly suggest if you **can** keep your child at home to do so as this will continue to limit numbers within each room and by doing so, limit the spread of infection and keep our children, educators and families safer.

How will billing work during this time? We are so grateful of families support and keeping their children booked into Heritage as it is supporting our continued running costs. If you get CCS, families are able to access 42 sick days per year (without a doctor's certificate). The 42 sick days refresh every financial year, and more may be offered by the government in the coming weeks. Please use these days before considering dropping your child's days.

If Heritage needs to close? Heritage will only close if ACT Children's Services instructs us to do so. In this case families CCS would still be paid by the government but families would not be required to pay the gap. If families drop their position Heritage will no longer get CCS payments which will place further financial burden on Heritage.

How will children continue learning from home over the coming weeks? The Heritage team will still be providing educational activities based on our programs. This will be set up and start next week for those choosing to keep children at home. The method of sharing will be via Google Classroom and we will be sending families an invite this week. Google Classroom is a free web service, developed by Google for schools, that aims to simplify creating and distributing programs and activities in a paperless way. You will be invited to Google Classroom via email and will be given an access code to begin. You can either use it as a smartphone app or on a computer. This is a new approach to learning because we see your child's health and continued education of the highest importance.

Please try to see this time that you are getting to spend with your child/ren as a blessing. You are fortunate to have them and they are incredibly lucky to have you. You have always been your child's prime educator – you know everything about them and have already taught them so much. They look to you in times of uncertainty so your love, kindness and support are what they need right now. They also pick up on stress, so please try to have 'adult conversations' with adults and reassure your child/ren that they are safe being with you (remember they are always listening to you). We will be addressing different approaches to hygiene and health in our online learning/at Heritage so you can discuss this in age appropriate ways with your child/ren at home.

In saying that, if you are choosing to stay home and educate your child/ren and you need assistance with understanding something that has been offered to your child through our online programs, please get in touch. We are more than happy to answer questions/support where we can.

Thank you

Vicki and the Heritage Team.
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