



## Maples Family Update

Monday 18th May

Dear Families,

In these unprecedented times, we are very fortunate to have managed the Covid-19 pandemic very well in Australia.

With the reopening of many workplaces, there is increasing demand for childcare from both new and returning families. Maples will continue to accept families wanting to return from home isolation.

In light of the recent government suggestion that "Free Childcare" will cease at the end of June, we are providing the following options:

Families can keep places on hold until 28th June 2020.

Families can hold places post 28th June 2020 for a 50% fee up to a period of 1 month (on the assumption "Free Childcare" is ceased end 28th June).

This will be reviewed once the government officially announces the future plans for "Free Childcare".

### Plans to return to Maples

If you haven't done so already, we would appreciate if you could complete the Child Care Plan form. This will assist our planning for the future. [Child Care Plan during COVID-19](#)

### Government subsidies - CCS

We will continue to communicate as information is released about CCS including allowable absences.

For families experiencing financial distress, we expect there will be government support to help families pay fees.

### Getting Tested - Health & Safety at Maples

It is important that we do not become complacent in preventing Covid-19 entering Maples. We are continuing to reflect and improve our practices.

The Victorian government is encouraging people with any symptoms, however mild, to get tested.

Symptoms to watch out for are:

- Fever
- Chills or sweats
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath
- Runny nose
- Loss of sense of smell

If anyone in your family experience any of the above symptoms, even if mild, please get a Covid-19 test. This will help us keep Covid-19 out of Maples.

We are asking our educators to do the same.

To find out more about getting tested, please go to this DHHS link:

[dhhs.vic.gov.au/getting-tested-coronavirus-covid-19](https://dhhs.vic.gov.au/getting-tested-coronavirus-covid-19)

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **When can my child return to care?**

To return to care please email your centre inbox. We will require two weeks' notice to plan our rosters.

#### **Can I add casual days?**

Please email your centre's inbox requesting any casual days. We require a minimum of 24 hours' notice. Casual days are dependent on availability in the centre. We will confirm via email if we can book requested casual days.

#### **Can I add or change permanent days?**

To add a permanent day that will continue after the Covid-19 pandemic please contact Admissions on 1300 000 335 or [admissions@eel.com.au](mailto:admissions@eel.com.au). Our team will check your requirements and the centres availability.

#### **Is childcare free?**

Yes, child care is free commencing 6th April up until 28th June 2020. The government will review this in May and we will update you with any changes.

Thank you for your ongoing support to Maples.

Stay safe and well,

Support Services Team  
Maples Early Learning