

Educator e-dition - April 2016

Date Claimers:

Fortnight Ending:
3 & 17 April

School Holidays:
28 March—8 April

Educator Get Together:
9 April

Little Kids Day Out:
16 April

Anzac Day:
25 April

Large Equipment:
28 April

Educator Training Day:
6 August

Birthdays—April

3rd Carol Kilpatrick
18th Karen McNaught



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STAYING HEALTHY IN CHILD CARE: We have now made a link to “Staying Healthy In Child Care—5th Edition” on our website under the Educator tab. This document provides Education & Care Services information about:-

- ★ Infection Control
- ★ Illnesses in Children
- ★ Hygiene Procedures
- ★ Immunisation Recommendations
- ★ Fact Sheets on Infection Diseases, etc.

A report from the UK recently surveyed 1000 parents and found that 86% admitted to sending a child back to an Early Education & Care Service before they had fully recovered from an illness.

As you know, child care settings are potentially a fertile environment for the spread of germs and bugs from the usual run of unnamed viruses which cause lethargy and general misery through to nits, worms, diarrhoea, conjunctivitis, hand, foot and mouth and more.



Staying Healthy in Child Care provides details on exclusion periods for children who have been sick and when they should be kept at home or should be sent home.

EMAILS: Please note, when sending emails to the office, please use the admin@fdcgypie.org.au address. When Co-ordinators are out working in the field, they are unable to read their emails. This means if you email in things such as excursions etc. to a Co-ordinators email address, other staff are unaware of your location and other important information. By using the “admin” email address, this information will be made available to all staff. Of course, if you are corresponding directly with a Co-ordinator over something specific, then please use their individual email address.

FDC Gympie Region Team

Phone: 5482 6099

Email: admin@fdcgypie.org.au
www.fdcgympie.com.au

Service Manager/Nominated Supervisor: Sue Williams

Educational Leader/Certified Supervisor: Kay Braddock

Certified Supervisor: Merrill Patrick

Administration Officer: Susan Duncan

Registrar: Nicky Giesen

Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 8.30am—4.00pm

Approved Provider: The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Q)

Management Committee: Uniting Church Child Care Association (Gympie Congregation)





Educational Leader—Recently some Educators and I attended a workshop on “Agency of the Child”. This was facilitated by Rhonda Livingstone the Educational Leader from ACECQA with input from Tanya (ECEC) and other members of workforce council.

The term “agency” was introduced with the NQS and for some doesn't seem to match the meaning of which it is intended. The EYLF definition of agency states “being able to make choices and decisions, and to have an impact on one's world,” and it is specifically mentioned in several places in the EYLF, MTOP and NQS.

When we have a sense of “agency” we feel in control of things that happen around us and can influence events. Often as adults we sometimes treat children as if they are incapable of making decisions or holding valid opinions. By listening and respecting children's works and ideas we model collaboration and cooperation and show we recognise children's capabilities.

So how do we demonstrate that we promote a child's agency in our practice. Here are some ways:

- ★ Providing an environment where resources and materials are available without the need for adult supervision—*this promotes children's ability to resource their own learning independently and successfully.*

- ★ Environments that are open where possible to access indoor/outdoor areas, to be alone or with company and to negotiate with whom the child would like to play—*this encourages children to be aware and take responsibility for their own preferences.*
- ★ Flexible arrangements around eating, sleeping, toileting and other routines, using children's behaviour rather than the clock as a cue to move between routines or experiences—*this encourages children to be responsible for their own physical needs and wellbeing.*
- ★ For older children voting and other group processes for reaching agreement—*helps give a sense of democratic decision making in action.*
- ★ To listen and respond and react to children's cues, sharing the power and control and ensuring ideas and interests are reflected in the program—*this helps promote an open, cooperative and respectful dynamic between adult and children.*



Examine your own practice and challenge yourself around how you promote children's agency. Look at how you manage the flow of the day, routines and experiences. In what ways do you promote children's agency and how can you demonstrate this?

Wendy Crook has just celebrated 10 years as an educator with our service. Thank you and Congratulations Wendy!


Congratulations

We say goodbye to Jenny Rigby who has retired as an educator after more than 28 years with our service. You have made a difference in so many children's lives and we thank you for the contribution you have made in supporting local families. We wish you all the very best for the future.



REV'S RAMBLINGS—Bill was a bright lad. For his graduation from High School, his parents, themselves quite wealthy, gave Bill a trip around the world. He travelled from country to country experiencing both the very rich and the very poor. He decided on that trip to devote his life to helping the poor as a missionary. He wrote and told his parents and they were mortified. He was far too gifted to waste his life in that way! So sure was Bill in his intent that he wrote two words in the back of his bible – no reserves. He went back home attended Yale University and shared his passion with all. Most thought he was stupid. So he wrote two more words under the first two. No retreats. Bill was not giving up what he believed within himself was what he had to do. After University and later Bible College, he left his home, his family, and several high paying jobs. Because he wanted to work in China amongst the Muslims, he stopped over in Egypt to learn Arabic. Whilst there he



contracted meningitis and died at the age of 25. His parents, devastated, flew over to bring back their sons body. They found his bible open where they read 6 words. No reserves, no retreats, no regrets. The last two words were written on the day he died. It is a true story, an emotional story, a sad one but a joyous one. Bill gave all he was and all he had in pursuit of making the world a better place. That is the story of Easter. Jesus, in response to his Father's will, gave all he had and all he was that you and I might have the opportunity for eternal life with Him. God sent his son to die and took our shame, our sorrow and our sin with Him. And He did so with no reserves, no retreats and no regrets. That's love – real love. And that love is for you, bringing you hope for a future unparalleled by anyone or anything. So this Easter season spare a few moments and reflect on why we celebrate! And as you do I pray your response to the Cross of Easter might be no reserves, no retreats and no regrets!