

# Educator e-dition - December 2016

## Date Claimers:

### Fortnight Ending:

11 and 25 December

### Public Holidays

25 Dec Christmas Day  
26 Dec Boxing Day  
27 Dec Christmas Day Holiday

### December Birthdays

17th Pat McKee  
19th Wendy Crook



### Children's Christmas Parties:

Gympie—7th December

### Christmas Closure:

Our office will close at 12 noon on Thursday 22nd December and reopen on Tuesday 3rd January 2017.

We can be contacted on the service mobile for emergencies over this period—0417 768 864.



The team would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Educators a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. You all provide a fundamental and professional role in our Service and are committed to extending and enriching children's learning through quality care, for our children and their families so this is a special "Thank You" to each and every one of you. If you are out and about, stay safe on our roads and have a very enjoyable Christmas season. We look forward to seeing you all in 2017.

**STAFF CHANGES:** We welcomed Lauren Miller as our Casual Relief Co-ordinator in June this year. We are both pleased but saddened to say that Lauren will be finishing with us this month as her baby boy is due to be born in the new year. Lauren, we wish you and bubs all the best and we are certainly looking forward to some cuddles when he arrives!!

We have now welcomed Teshian Smith as another Casual Relief Co-ordinator. Teshian will be out and about meeting our Educators this month. She may not get around to everyone before Christmas, but if not, you will meet her in the New Year.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge each of our staff members. They put their heart and soul into their roles and our results reflect this. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their support and contributions—we could not achieve all that we do without them so "Thank You".

*Sue Williams*

*Service Manager / Nominated Supervisor*



Like Us on  
Facebook

Have you liked our facebook page yet?

<https://www.facebook.com/fdcgympie>

Please like and share our posts!

**TIMESHEET PROCESSING OVER CHRISTMAS:** Due to the public holidays over Christmas, timesheets for fortnight ending 25th December 2016 will be processed on 28th and 29th December. Payment should not be expected before 30th December. Please be aware that we do pay all of our Educators before we receive any of the CCB/CCR subsidy payments from the Department (as is our usual practice) to ensure you receive your payment as soon as possible.

## FDC Gympie Region Team

Phone: 5482 6099

Email: [admin@fdcgympie.org.au](mailto:admin@fdcgympie.org.au)  
[www.fdcgympie.com.au](http://www.fdcgympie.com.au)

**Service Manager/Nominated Supervisor:** Sue Williams

**Educational Leader/Certified Supervisor:** Kay Braddock

**Certified Supervisor:** Merrill Patrick

**Casual Certified Supervisors:** Lauren Miller

Teshian Smith

**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)





The Department of Education and Training have issued the following:-

As we approach **Summer, a reminder** to all Services that in the Australian climate, playground equipment and surfacing can heat up rapidly and remain hot. This can cause serious burns and scalds to skin upon contact. The following recommendations from Kid Safe aim to help prevent playground burns and scalds on hot, sunny days:

- Test the surfaces;
- Metal slides, poles, guardrails, barriers and other playground equipment may pose burn/scald risks if the equipment is exposed to direct sunlight;
- Carefully place your hand on equipment surfaces to check if they are hot. Use caution, don't expose yourself to burns;
- Alternatively, use a thermometer to measure the temperature. If the surface temperature is 50°C or more, children should not play in the playground;
- Keep re-checking temperatures as the day progresses.



## Educational Leader:

This year is nearly over and 2017 will be here before we know it. With a new year comes change—change for children remaining...often the smaller children suddenly become the bigger ones in the group, and obviously change for new children...new environment, rules and routines and new people in their lives.

As Educators we cope with change relatively well especially in FDC as things change so often and we learn to deal with it, but how do children cope?

Now might be a pertinent time to critically reflect on your process to welcome new children and families and support existing children and families. How do you prepare existing children for the changes next year? What about yourself and your practice...will you make changes to the way you do or organise things. Share with us your insights when we visit next.

## Reminder

Whilst we acknowledge that documentation is often forwarded home at Christmas time please be mindful that you retain some documentation that still shows the growth learning and development of the child.

If any child is leaving your service then their "Assessment for Learning" profile must be sent to the office.

**REV'S RAMBLINGS**—Some time back the church bought a new television for use mainly for workshops and our kids ministry. It may not have been the latest or even the best but it was digital (of course) and had all the aspects of watching something on a screen that we needed. For the next few months it was used most weeks and from all comments received it had achieved our goal and it was cheaper than we thought it may have been. So far, so good. We allowed a group who use one of our rooms each Monday to use the TV to save them hauling their own from the Sunshine Coast every week. And they did with much gratitude. The next week when they went to use it – it didn't work?? No picture, no sound, no nothing. They called me over and try as I might I could not get the thing to work either. The last time it had been used was by this same group! I was a little annoyed but didn't have the heart to blame them. They got by without and for the next 6 weeks there was no TV. We checked with the guy who got it for us as to the receipt. He threw it out! A waste of money and nothing for our kids to use nor for our adult workshops. Frustrating was an understatement. It was put in a room and left to rot. One of our team dragged it out some weeks later and thought he would try it. He connected it to the power outlet, felt along the bottom of the set and turned it on, and hey presto it worked

perfectly. And now you're laughing. And I don't blame you! Why didn't it work for me or the team of people who tried originally? Because the on / off switch had been bumped in transit somehow and of course until it was turned back on it wasn't going to work. That got me thinking! How often in life do we get frustrated over things that don't work either in ourselves or within another person? We expect things to go according to our plans and sometimes they just don't. That TV was all plugged in, power was there but not being accessed. The other day I was in a meeting in Brisbane. I was there in the flesh but I wasn't present. All I wanted was to get out of there! Most of us have times like that I'm sure. It's like we're plugged in and powered up but nothing's happening. We need to have someone turn us on again! And from my experience when I'm tired and frustrated, angry or confused, I can't do that myself. But I have learnt that God can and will if I let Him. He notices I am trying to work in the off position – so takes the hurt, frustration, confusion or anger, and turns it on. Let me summarise – let go and let God!

**Reverend Dave Thomas is the Chairman of the Uniting Church Child Care Association Management Board**

