

Educator e-dition - March 2016

Date Claimers:

Fortnight Ending:
6 & 20 March

Easter in the Park:
23 March

School Holidays:
28 March—8 April

Educator Get Together:
9 April

Little Kids Day Out:
16 April

Large Equipment:
21 April

Educator Training Day:
6 August



Birthdays—March

8th Raelene
12th Ellen
17th Rhonda
18th Barbara
30th Tammy



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WELCOME: Welcome to our first “Educator e-dition” newsletter. This newsletter will be published monthly and will only be distributed to Educators. Families will also be receiving their first “Family Focus” newsletter this month and will then receive them bi-monthly thereafter. We will also email Educators a copy of the “Family Focus” newsletter for your information. If you have any ideas or feedback for our new format, please let us know.

HARMONY SOFTWARE UPDATE: Recently an email was sent providing an update with our Harmony Software. Please read this information and if you would like further clarification, please contact the office or speak with your visiting Co-ordinator.

EDUCATOR & STAFF GET TOGETHER: Following the results from the Survey Monkey, we have now set a date for our Educator & Staff Get Together. This will be held on 9th April, 2016 @ 6:30pm. Husbands/partners & children are most welcome. Make sure you put the date in your diary now. Further information, including the venue will be out in the near future.

NEW STAFF: Following our Uniting Church Child Care Association meeting on Monday 22nd February, 2016 we are pleased to announce that we will be employing a casual / relief Certified Supervisor (Co-ordinator). This position will be advertised online only, using social media sites and websites. Watch this space!!

EDUCATOR TRAINING: Results are in from our Survey Monkey for a full day training session. The date has now been set for 6th August, 2016. We are still very much in the preliminary stages of organising this. More details will be provided following re-assessment. Don't forget to mark this date in your calendar too!!

FDC Gympie Region Team

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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—Last week several Educators and Coordinators attended some thought provoking professional development on 'Sustainability in EC settings'. What appealed to me was that we were challenged to think about sustainability from an ethical/social justice perspective rather than just a 'green' perspective.

Sustainability in broader terms refers to "a desire to provide best outcomes for human and natural environments both now and into the indefinite future" As Educators you do address issues of social justice. You deal with conflict resolution, address unfair behaviours, develop positive social skills, encourage respect and empathy amongst a myriad of others. Engaging these practices at an early childhood level helps children to be more aware, caring and equipped to deal with diversity and problem solving equipping them to be caring, respectful community members and world citizens. Surely this would contribute to best outcomes at a "human" level for a sustainable future.

The notes from this workshop are posted on the Educational Leader page of our website. Check it out for some thought provoking ideas, practical resources and some great links to support you in your practice. Coordinators welcome your thoughts about this perspective on visits.

Kay

Regional Meeting (Maryborough) 25 February 2016

Tania Redmond (Manager North Coast DET) clarified issues and questions around premises vs care areas, fencing, risk assessments, excursions out of the care area but still on the premises and spot checks. The information provided will be examined and Service policies, procedures and practices will be reviewed to make sure they fit with the Departments interpretation of current legislative requirements. This information will be discussed on visits.

If you are chosen for a unannounced visit or spot check Tania has provided the following information:

Ask for identification.

Be aware that an ECO can view anywhere in the care area but should ask if they can open drawers, cupboards, view sleeping rooms etc.

The ECO should not distract you in any way from your ability to care for the children.

Educators should be made aware of any issues or concerns before the ECO leaves. If they don't you have the right to ask.

The Department also values feedback so discuss your visit with a Coordinator and we will certainly provide feedback (positive or negative) on your behalf.

Workshops:

Children's Agency
Friday 11 March 10am-12.30pm
Gympie RSL (no cost)

Yarn Up Tok Blo Yumi Sessions
Wed 9 & 23 March, 27 April, 25 May, 1 & 22 June
Pavillion Conference Room (no cost)
Still some spaces available so contact Kay

We say goodbye to Angela Narayan as an educator with our service. We wish you all the best in your future endeavours.



REV'S RAMBLINGS—I suspect many of you have answered if not in writing or type, in your mind, some of those crazy questions like: What's your favourite colour? Favourite food? Favourite movie? And they keep going don't they? I saw a game (if that's what it really is) similar on facebook the other day. I was being asked to tell the world effectively all about me. Well I declined that offer as I figure that if I want to tell people about me, I will, but at my choosing. So here you go, I'll let you into a little secret about me. My favourite cold drink is – wait for it – drum roll please – ginger beer! Sorry to disappoint all you coke drinkers, water drinkers, or even the more intoxicating varieties. Pretty boring I suppose but hey – it's me. And if you must know, cos I hear you pondering – what brand – well Bundy ginger beer really has no substitute but if the need arises or I'm looking for a slight change I'll go for Kirks Olde Stoney! Believe it or not I have a can beside me half full as I type this. And it intrigues me and challenges me! No, not because of the taste or the can per se, but the wording on the can. It says, "This ain't



just any Ginger Beer, this is Kirks 'Olde Stoney'. Just so you know, this one's uniquely marked with Old Stoney's upside down face on the label. Only then will you know ya have the right one." Identification is a big thing isn't it? We all like to know exactly what we are getting when we buy something and the bigger that something, the more expensive it is, the more we go looking to make sure that what we asked for is in fact what we got. So this drink is known by an upside down face. And sure enough it is there so I have got what it says. I can have confidence that what's inside – that which I consume – is valid. It's been identified, if you like, authenticated. Jesus comes to you and I and offers His identification, His trademark, His authentication and we call it the cross. The cross turns our logic and our ways on its head. But if you know the Cross and are identified by it, you know that what you consume is the real deal. We celebrate Easter this month. What a great time to get authenticated and start living the Easter story of hope and resurrection.
Reverend Dave Thomas is the Chairman of the Uniting Church Child Care Association Management Committee