

Educator e-dition - November 2016

Date Claimers:

Fortnight Ending:

23th and 27th November

November Birthdays

10th Carolyn Frampton

15th Janine Hobart



Children's Christmas Parties:

Tin Can Bay—30th November

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.



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HARMONY SOFTWARE UPDATE: As most of you know, we use the industry based computer software called Harmony. We have now been contacted by them advising that we will be commencing with the new interactive updated Harmony Web in the near future. Initially, our Service will transition to this new software which will involve staff training. We envisage that Educators will transition to this new system some time prior to 30th June, 2017. Some of the main benefits for Educators will be:-

- ★ Educators electronically submit timesheets
- ★ Enrolments and fee data will be available automatically to Educators to view when they log-in
- ★ And more....

There will also be a number of options such as electronic signatures, Educator Cash Book and Program & Practices modules.

We will keep you posted along the way as we find out more detailed information and prices.

FENCING: Hot topic of the month!! As you know, the Department is out and about with unannounced visits with the focus on Health, Safety and Wellbeing and this includes fencing. This has raised some debate over what a pre-school aged child is physically able to climb. Our Service has applied for an Internal Review to try and get some clarification around this. In the meantime, the Co-ordinators will discuss fencing with you and if they have any concerns, will take photos for further discussion with the Co-ordination Team.

Remember, if all else fails, the fence must be fail safe!!

Donate a Book—Brighten a local child's Christmas by donating the gift of a new book to the Salvation Army's Christmas Cheer Appeal. Books can be left at our office anytime before 1st December.



FDC Gympie Region Team

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Service Manager/Nominated Supervisor: Sue Williams

Educational Leader/Certified Supervisor: Kay Braddock

Certified Supervisor: Merrill Patrick

Certified Supervisor: Lauren Miller

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:

This month we look at the **learning outcomes** which are a set of skills that Educators can actively promote in their setting in collaboration with children and families.

Current legislation requires that your service provides an Educational program that contributes to the EYLF & MYOP outcomes and that you have documentation that shows the child's progress against the outcomes.

All Educators by now show a good understanding of the cycle of planning and when considering the outcomes they tend to do it as a *reflective process*. It is great to see many Educators using words and phrases from the frameworks when referencing children's learning rather than just quoting numbers or elements that can often be meaningless to the reader. I think it also gives you a greater understanding of and appreciation of the document and some of the content becomes second nature.

My challenge to you this month is to look at the concept of how these documents **drive your practice. How do they influence your curriculum decisions?**

For example you might choose :

Outcome 4 Children are involved and confident learners

Children resource their own learning through connecting with people, place, technology and natural processed materials.

What curriculum decisions you could make or implement to support children to achieve success with this outcome.

Some things to consider might be:

What could you provide in your environment that gives children an opportunity to engage in a range of sensory and exploratory experiences that include natural and processed

materials?

Is there opportunity for children to use some resources that pull apart, need assembling, can be made into something of their choosing or used in a different way?

What resources do you provide so children have opportunities to represent or play out what they are thinking?

What do you have or can add to your environment that allows children to use their imagination, be creative in their play?

What could you do to support children build on their ideas?

Do you give opportunities for children work together towards a common goal or project?

Do you use any forms of information technology in your service? How do you support children to inquire, find an answer or gain more information?

Are you instigating conversations and group discussions to revise or build on children's ideas?

What strategies do you use to involve children in the broader community and environment beyond our care setting? If you're someone who doesn't get out much how can you support children to understand they are part of a community or a wider world?

These questions were derived from the statements in the EYLF document for this outcome

I encourage you to do the same so that the outcomes are *driving* your practice and curriculum decisions. This information would be extremely helpful when evaluating the child's progress against the outcomes. We will be discussing this concept with you on visits and look forward to sharing your insights and ideas.

REV'S RAMBLINGS—Between now and the last newsletter, I had the rare opportunity to spend a few days (5 to be precise) away. You see some months back we bought a caravan and despite the best wishes of my wife, have not had a chance to get away and just check it out. So we did. We went up to Bargara and spent 5 days chilling out – reminisced a bit (I spent 2 years growing up just north of there) – swam a bit, checked out some of the shopping precincts and did a bit of sightseeing. It was while at Elliott Heads having a coffee on the foreshore – mesmerized by the views across the water, captivated by the created landscape as land met water and enjoying the moment when I was interrupted. A tap on the shoulder and a turn of the head revealed this older woman looking at me asking, “Can you help me?” “What’s wrong,” I said, a little awkwardly as I didn’t like being dragged away from my moment. “You don’t have a sore back do you?” “No”, I replied. “What’s Up?”. “Can you help me – my friend has fallen over and I can’t pick him up. He is aged, has dementia, and can’t balance himself, he has no strength in his legs.” So I went over and was able to lift him up to the seat he fell from initially, then subsequently to his feet, stabilized him with

his walker, smiled and watched as the two of them shuffled away. What I remember most of that ordeal is the smile of that old man as Sandy was holding his hand reassuring him as I lifted. It was like he did not to let go for a few seconds. When he knew he was safe again, he let go of her hand, and smiled and simply said thank you. A bit emotional perhaps – but I learnt a valuable lesson that moment. The best moments of our life often come from being interrupted. Perhaps we should be become less frustrated with the interruption and more focussed on the need that is calling for our attention. Of course I could have refused to help that old man and lady. I could have made some excuse and forfeited the opportunity of seeing that smile. Jesus comes into our lives and often interrupts our plans, our ways. And we have the choice to ignore Him or to go with Him. The truth is that we either follow Him and enjoy life or forfeit Him and have to endure life. I know my preference. What’s yours?

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

