

news



HAPPY NEW YEAR: Family Day Care Gympie Region staff hope everyone had a safe and happy Christmas and enjoyed celebrating the arrival of the New Year.



OFFICE ACCESS: Due to reduced staffing, the side door of our offices will remain locked. Any Educator requiring access is able to phone and a staff member will ensure the door is unlocked for easy access. The only time the door will remain open is during the duration of play groups.

RE-ASSESSMENT & SAFETY CHECK: The annual re-assessment and safety check of all Educators homes will be conducted during February and March, 2015. Educators are reminded to complete the appropriate paperwork prior to booking in their assessment visit. All new transport forms and risk minimisation plans are due for review at the start of January, so please ensure these are forwarded into the office prior to your re-assessment.



AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES: Educators are reminded that after hours emergencies should be directed to the Service mobile telephone number - 0417 768 864. This number will also be included on your after-hours contact cards, the next time they are issued.



BOOKED HOURS: Our service starts each calendar year with NEW booked hour forms for ALL children even if their booked hours remain the same as last year. Please make sure you have submitted new booked hour forms for 2015 to the office before Wednesday 4th February. Timesheets for fortnight ending 8th February cannot be processed without 2015 booked hour forms.

CHANGES TO LEGISLATION: A reminder that as of 3rd February 2015 family day care educators are no longer able to register their own children with another approved family day care service or educator on any day that they are providing sessions of education and care.

PARENTS: During the coming month a short survey will be sent to a random group of parents with questions about the education and care service that their children attend. If you receive one of these surveys, please take the time to complete it and return as nominated on the survey. Thank you for your assistance.

This is the first newsletter for me as Service Manager / Nominated Supervisor. Our Service is in the process of working through significant changes within the Family Day Care sector. We have a very busy year ahead preparing and planning around a number of challenges and a quote from the late, great Jim Rohn seems applicable: "If you really want to do something, you'll find a way, if you don't, you'll find an excuse." So by staying focused on our goals, the tasks we face will just be hurdles along our path. *Sue Williams*

What's On?

- 8th Fortnight Ending
- 14th Valentines Day
- 22nd Fortnight ending
- 24th Mixed Bag Workshop
- 26th Mixed Bag Workshop

Birthdays

February

- 4th Elaine Elson
- 18th Amber Garwood
- 25th Katie Scott

March

- 1st Muriel Sellars



FDC Gympie Region Team

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Service Manager/Nominated Supervisor

Sue Williams

Educational Leader/Certified Supervisor

Kay Braddock

Certified Supervisor

Merril Patrick

Administration

Susan Duncan

Jill Kewin

Office Hours

Mon—Fri: 8.30am to 4.00pm

Approved Provider

The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Q)

Management Committee

Uniting Church Child Care Association





★ Educator Training & Workshops

Mixed Bag Workshops are being held in the FDC office on Tuesday 24th and Thursday 26th February 2015. 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start. Nibbles will be provided. It is strongly recommended that you attend one of these workshops. Please RSVP with your preferred date now.

Remember to check the FDC Gympie Region website on a regular basis to keep up to date with training and workshop opportunities.



We had a great day at our Australia Day fun day. Lots of water play, craft activities, and a sausage sizzle and damper.

★ Educational Leader

Now that the school aged children have returned to school and many of you are settling new children and existing children back into care it would be an opportune time to reflect on your ongoing practice: How are you collecting information about the child especially about their strengths, needs and interests? How are parents/children involved in this process? How is this documented?

This is an important part of the ongoing “cycle of planning” and is vital in supporting you to make informed curriculum decisions that support children’s learning.

In my role as Educational Leader I am looking forward to catching up with you all individually. This will be to discuss, support and share ideas in relation to educational program and practice and meeting outcomes for children.

Kay

REVS RAMBLINGS



Coming home from some time out at Hervey Bay was in part an interesting experience. You see the day before and the day we were to pack up it rained. So we packed up in the rain – many of you will know what that means – but that wasn’t the real issue. We were travelling along the Bruce Highway just near the Gunalda turnoff and it was bucketing down. And that too was OK until – the driver’s side windscreen wiper decided not to work. I stopped and tried to fix it – got saturated in the process – and decided that as we couldn’t just sit there we would drive home with one wiper – and not mine?? My wife could see better than I but she wasn’t driving! At one point it got a bit scary and I had to slow right down to a crawl as I just couldn’t see. Generally though, I figured that if I could just focus on the white line on the side of the road – I could just make that out – at least I wouldn’t leave the road and I should keep out of the road of oncoming vehicles???? Since that experience I have been reflecting! Life is a lot like that isn’t it? Things happen at times which cause our vision to be impeded and sometimes even so blurred we need to stop and take stock of what we are doing and where we are going. Decisions have to be made often under extra duress or pressure because the elements – or the circumstances we find ourselves in - are difficult. At these times focus is critical. Focusing on the facts and the things which are known and stable are often the keys to getting home OK.

Family Day Care is in the middle of significant change – I pray that even if our vision has been a little impeded or misplaced, we can focus on what we know to be true – and what I know to be true above all else is that My God – our God is always faithful. We can lean on Him!

But we pushed on and eventually made it home – all good.

★ Toy Library

Cleaning equipment. When cleaning equipment please do not use harsh chemicals. Clean frequently to avoid mildew and mould forming on surfaces. Straps should only be cleaned with a mild soap and water and dried thoroughly. We have had a number of high chair straps disintegrate making them unusable. Harsh chemicals on car restraint straps damage the webbing and compromise their strength in an accident.

Borrowing. Please remember to record all equipment borrowed from the Toy Library. This includes equipment from the shed. Also a reminder that toys and equipment can be delivered to you on coordination visits. Just contact your coordinator to make arrangements.