

news

EXCURSION FORMS—Recently there have been a number of Excursion Forms submitted to the office incomplete. The majority of these are missing linked and/or additional Risk Minimisation Plans. It is a legislative requirement that the additional Risk Minimisation Plans are signed by parents/guardians and attached to the Excursion Form and submitted to the office **prior** to the event/excursion taking place. Any incomplete forms will be immediately returned to the Educator to complete prior to the excursion.

If you are attending a regular activity that is documented on your Regular Transportation Form, full details including departure and arrival times and destination, are to be phoned / emailed through to the office **prior** to the event/excursion taking place. This is also a legislative requirement and the administration staff document these on a spreadsheet, so please make their job easier by providing all the information concisely and precisely.

ASTHMA & ANAPHYLAXIS—When the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 were implemented on 1st January 2012, Educators were given a period of time to complete their Asthma & Anaphylaxis training. We are now in the period where these are due for renewal and Educators are reminded that they are required to complete the First Aid Course—HLTAID004—to cover asthma and anaphylaxis. In some cases, it will be cheaper for Educators to complete the full course, rather than the child care portion and a full First Aid Course next year. Please remember, Educators must be continuously covered with the correct First Aid qualifications. If not, legislation requirements will mean that no attendance records will be able to be processed for the period their First Aid qualifications lapse.

TOY LIBRARY—We are very pleased with the results from the Toy Library sale. This was open to Educators, families and then the general public. There are only a few toys left and the remaining books have been donated to a school in Papua New Guinea.

PREP ATTENDANCE—Educators are reminded that any children that will be attending Prep in 2016, will be counted as “school aged” from 1st January 2016. Please take this into consideration when planning for vacancies in the New Year.

UNANNOUNCED MONITORING VISIT—On 6th October 2015 our Service had an unannounced monitoring visit from the Maryborough Office, Early Childhood Education and Care, Department of Education and Training. This visit consisted of an audit of the Co-ordination Unit and visits to two Educators with the focus on health & safety and hygiene. We are very pleased with these results and would like to acknowledge all our Educators, in particular those Educators visited. This just highlights the fantastic quality care you are all providing.

What's On?

Fortnight ending:
1, 15, 29 November

11th—Remembrance Day



Birthdays

November:

10th Carolyn Frampton
15th Janine Hobart
17th Julie Armstrong

happy
birthday

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Service Manager/Nominated Supervisor

Sue Williams

Educational Leader/Certified Supervisor

Kay Braddock

Certified Supervisor

Merril 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 month I was present at an Industry Reference Group meeting where Early Childhood Officers attended.

They shared with us some feedback from Rating & Assessment visits and monitoring visits. Three elements in Quality Area One (Educational program & practice) seemed to be a stumbling block for many services.

These were QA 1.1.3 ; 1.2.1 and 1.2.3.

Please look them up in the National Quality Standards and consider reflecting on how you meet these requirements in your service.

Make yourself a simple template (or contact me to support) stating the quality area as your heading. Underneath reflect how you are currently meeting this area. Brain storm new ideas that you could incorporate to improve (refer to the framework, network with other Educators, discuss with parents, on Coordination visits etc.). This can then form part of your reflection documentation and can be referred to if you ever have a monitoring visit. More importantly it is about reflecting on and improving our everyday practice for better outcomes for children.

Kay



REV'S RAMBLINGS—A few years ago I drove from the Gold Coast to Rockhampton to attend a funeral of a father who was a man I had never met nor knew but I knew his son and his family. I drove over night on the Wednesday, attended the funeral on the Thursday morning and drove back getting home about 2am on the Friday morning to be ready for a speaking engagement at 8.30 that day. Most people thought I was an idiot. What were you thinking? You're crazy! And maybe there was touch of craziness in that decision. Nevertheless, I will never forget the look on Aymee's and Tayla's (the son's daughters) face when they saw the old truck come bellowing up the road outside their grandma's place prior to the start of the service. They screamed out so loud I could hear from the car – "Dad, Mum its Pastor Dave". They both ran and greeted me and within seconds Jodi and Robert (Mum and Dad) were there. There were hugs and tears all round. Robert never said too much – he choked up every time he tried – he just looked almost in disbelief and after a while simply said – thank you! Today – some 8 years later – all four of them plus the rest of the family remind me how significant that 'presence' was. They don't necessarily share the same beliefs I do, but they are really great friends and I just knew that what I needed to do was what I did back then – crazy or not. I guess I have thought through that experience several times since. On that occasion I responded to a need I felt. The 'why' of that trip was the motivation – not the 'what'. So often in life we live out of a 'what' mentality not a 'why'. And when we do, we become vulnerable and succumb to all sorts of pressures unnecessarily. It is the 'why' of our life that gives it meaning, so doesn't it make just make good sense to live out of that paradigm? For me, my 'why' is Jesus and His call on my life. And frankly without my 'why' I would be aimless, rudderless and lack a reason for making the most out of every day. What or who is your 'why'?

Reverend Dave Thomas is the chairman of the Uniting Church Child Care Association Management Committee.

Date Claimer!
 This year we will be holding 2 children's Christmas parties. You can choose to attend either Tuesday 24th November at Wes Mitchell Park in Tin Can Bay or Wednesday 2nd December at the White Hall on Red Hill Road in Gympie. More information will be released closer to these dates!

Free Parent Workshop—The Circle of Security Parenting Program is being presented by the Early Years Family Hub. The program is based on 60 years of early childhood research around attachment theory. The Circle of Security Program is about enhancing attachment in early Parent—Child relationships. It is being held over 4 nights in November—4th, 11th, 18th and 25th November from 6.00-9.00pm. Phone or email The Hub to register on 5482 9012, abeattie@anglicaresq.org.au. For more information on Circle of Security visit: www.circleofsecurity.net

We have now said goodbye to Barbra O'Neill, Rene Flangan, Bree Voller, Amiee Parsons and Kim Groombridge. A few of these educators have been on extended leave and this has now come to an end. We wish you all well for the future.



No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted—Aesop, Greek Fabulist

