

news



EDUCATORS: The end of the year is fast approaching so now is the time to be considering your vacancies for 2016. The Education and Care Services National Regulations, Regulation #305 allows for Educators to provide education and care for up to seven children at any one time (not including the Educator's own children who are over pre-school age). This regulation applies in place of Regulation #124 until 31st December 2015.

As of 1st January 2016 Regulation #124 will become effective. This regulation states:-

A Family Day Care Educator must not educate and care for more than seven children at a family day care residence at any one time.

If the children are being educated and cared for at a residence, the Educator's own children and any other children at the residence are to be taken into account if:-

- (i) those children are under 13 years of age; and
- (ii) there is no other adult present and caring for the children.

If your own school aged children are under 13 years of age, please take this into consideration when planning for vacancies in the new year.

PETS: Family Day Care Gympie Region recognises the value of children's interactions with Educator's pets. However, there are requirements that Educator's must meet in relation to legislation and our Service policies and procedures. Please review your applicable Risk Minimisation Plan (RMP). Does this RMP accurately reflect your practices?



- ★ Are litter boxes, food and water containers and pet toys out of reach of children at all times?
- ★ Is your care environment free of animal droppings?
- ★ Are children's interactions with pets supervised at all times?
- ★ Are pets kept separate from children during food preparation and while children are eating?
- ★ Are your pets free of parasites and fleas and in good health?
- ★ Have all your parents signed your applicable RMP?

If you answer "no" to one or more of these questions, it is crucial that you rectify this immediately. Please refer to the Education and Care Services National Regulations #116 (1) and (2).

APPOINTMENTS: The Co-ordination team are not always available at the office. If you would like to meet with a team member, it is always best to make an appointment so we can make sure we are available. Thank you.

What's On?

Fortnight ending:

6 & 20 September

School holidays:

19 September—4 October

Child Protection Week:

6—12 September

Fathers Day:

6 September

Birthdays

September

28th Kathy Pitt



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 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

Earlier this month Sue and I attended an “Educational Program and Practice” workshop that was facilitated by Rhonda Livingstone (the ACECQA Educational Leader) with participation from Early Childhood Officers (ECO’s) from the Office of Early Childhood Education and Care and members of the Workforce Council.

The main message that came across to us was that it’s not the amount of documentation you have or how immaculately or colourfully it’s presented, but how the documentation is used. The question to ask yourself is *“how does my documentation assist in planning effectively for children’s current and future learning and communicating about each child’s learning and progress?”*

Check out the new tab on our website *‘Educational Leader’*.

I have added a valuable information resource from the workshop titled *“ACECQA Guidelines for documenting children’s learning”*.

Included in this information is an Educational Program and Practice assessment tool that will help you identify current practice and any gaps that you might need to address. There is also a ‘deconstruction’ of the Cycle of Planning with some great questions that you might consider when reflecting on your practice.

In the last 2 months our service has supported Educators by facilitating 2 workshops on “Legislative requirements for documenting children’s learning” and a “Sharing Documentation”. The documentation showcased some wonderful examples of children’s learning by Educators who are focussed, intentional, creative and responsive to children’s needs and interests.

I would like to thank all those Educators who attended and participated.

Kay

Fundraising

Our annual Toy Catalogue fundraiser is on now! Pick up a catalogue from your educator or our office if you are interested. Orders are due by Tuesday 6th October 2015. FDC Gympie will receive a voucher for 20% of the total value.



Two new educators have started with our service. Rene Flanagan at Rainbow Beach and Angela Narayan in Gympie. Angela has been an educator with our service previously and we are happy to welcome her back. We hope you both enjoy your time with our service.



 We say goodbye to Elaine Elson who has left our service after more than 14 years as an Educator. We wish her all the very best for the future.



REV’S RAMBLINGS—Last month was Superman! This month is The Last Crusade! Yep – I am sticking with the movie theme again. It’s interesting that I can watch a movie tonight and next week if you were to ask me if I have seen that movie, I would more than likely say no. Sandy, my wife gets so frustrated, but I reckon it’s cool. Why? Because I can watch movies over and over again – and each time it’s like the first time. But for her its – oh no here we go again don’t you remember this? Nope! Nevertheless, there is the odd one now and again that I do recall – maybe not every part but scenes that stick with me. Besides, it’s Father’s Day this month and this movie speaks volumes about dads and their children. In “The Last Crusade”, there is this scene which will never leave me. Dad, played by Sean Connery, is dying. Son, played by Harrison Ford needs to navigate his way through a maze of obstacles, any of which if triggered could kill him instantly. He knew there was a set pathway and if followed accurately, it will get him safely to the other side and to the treasure - their archeological find. It may also save his dad. As he begins this short but breathtaking journey, he nearly makes a mistake. He saves himself from that and he begins to say out loud what his dad had told him. If his dad was able, he could have got him through but he was lying helpless. As he speaks out loud his dad’s instructions, he follows them with absolute trust, and successfully makes it to the end of round one. Son ends up reaching their treasure and is able to save his Dad from death into the bargain as securing the treasure had special powers. That scene, from a secular make believe movie, is so special to me because it reminds me of the whole Christian gospel and the special powers that is available from ‘finding our treasure’. Jesus followed His Father’s instructions with absolute trust – even unto death – and rose from death to put before each one of us a pathway. And to navigate that pathway successfully, will require absolute trust in our Heavenly Father – God. And here is the real key. The treasure is eternal life in heaven, with the Creator of the Universe. How cool is that?

EDUCATOR PROFILE—NIKKI WALKER

Hello everyone, My name is Nikki and I have been an Educator on and off for about 10 years. What started out as volunteering at my daughters daycare a few years earlier, soon turned into a love for children and watching them learn and grow. I have had a very successful FDC in Victoria Point in Brisbane, then moved it all to Tin Can Bay and then to beautiful Rainbow Beach. I have raised 3 terrific kids, Jake 20 years, Rhiannon 17 years and Nicholas 14 years. I enjoy having lunch by the ocean with my kids, movies on a Friday night, and time out for a good coffee with friends. Rainbow Beach is a beautiful spot to live and my littlies love seeing the skydivers jump from overhead and parachute down! How lucky are we!

