



FAMILY DAY CARE

Quality Home Based Childcare



Kids at Home Family Day Care Newsletter

ISSUE 25 Spring 14



It's

Spring



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Spring is in the air and so are those nasty flu's and viruses that have been making their way around the community, workplace and child care causing some severe illnesses.

Please be aware of how easily these germs are spread, ensure you cover your mouth and nose when you cough and sneeze, then wash your hands immediately and please keep your children at home if they are unwell, it's the best place for them and prevents further spread of infection and illness.

Regards,
Sharyn, Nina, Nicole,
Nicola and Debbie



Did you Know...?

HIPPOPOTOMONSTROSES
QUIPPEDALIOPHOBIA is
the fear of long words.!



www.kidsathome.net.au

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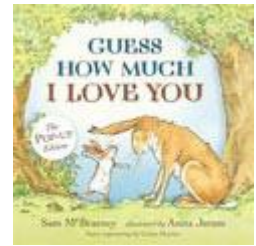
Book Corner – Fathers Day

Guess how much I Love You – pop up edition

Author Sam McBratney & Anita Jeram

This book not only celebrates the love between father and child but also shows how much impact a father's love can have on a child, I recommend this book as a Father's day gift for a very special dad.

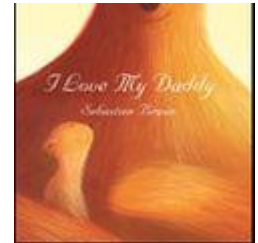
Author Fiona Robertson



I love my Daddy

Author and illustrator Sebastien Braun

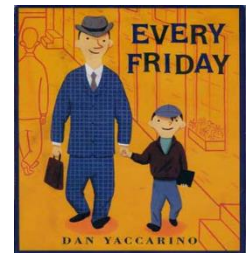
The story begins in the morning with “My Daddy wakes me”. It goes on to tell about all of the things the cub's daddy lovingly does for him and ends with the cub expressing his love for his daddy.



Every Friday

Author and illustrator Dan Yacarino

Many of our favourite memories of childhood centre on family traditions. This book celebrates one such ritual, a young boy's recount of how he and his father go out for breakfast at their favourite diner every Friday morning. They take their time walking to the diner, enjoying one another's company and all the sights of a busy city. It's no wonder that Friday is the little boy's favourite day of the week.



Educator's Corner

We would like to welcome some more Educators on board the Kids at Home team; Tahlia (Red Hill), Ruth (Rosedale South), Colleen (Springwood), Dee (Bethania), Josie (Mt Warren Park), Sarah (Slacks Creek), Alexia (Samford Valley), Deb (Stafford), Carol (Kingston), Celina (Oxley), Pavi (Bald Hills) and Tracey (Kedron).

Upcoming Children's Live On Stage Shows:

Dora's Pirate Adventure – Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd September @ Brisbane Powerhouse New Farm

Elmo's World Tour – Thursday 16th and Friday 17th October @ QUT Gardens Theatre

Peppa Pig Treasure Hunt – Thursday 27th and Friday 28th November @ QUT Gardens Theatre



Kids at Home Family Day Care

www.facebook.com/kahtdc



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July

Safety Audit & Risk Management

- ☐ Check smoke detectors
- ☐ Bathroom, Toile
- ☐ Nappy Change
- ☐ Laundry
- ☐ First Aid Kit



August

Safety Audit & Risk Management

- ☐ Emergency & Evacuation Procedures
- ☐ Outside/Water Hazards
- ☐ Prams and strollers
- ☐ Veranda/Balcony
- ☐ Check smoke detectors



Happy Belated Father's Day.....



We hope all the dad's enjoyed a great day on Sunday the 7th September, and received lots of little gifts your children had made especially for you.

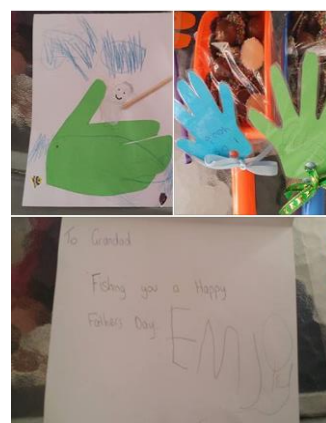
September

Safety Audit & Risk Management

- ☐ Outdoor-Play Equipment
- ☐ Animal
- ☐ General
- ☐ Check smoke detectors



Some of the special gifts the children made for their dads



"Families Need Family Day Care" campaign

The changes to Community Support Programme funding could see:

- Thousands of families without child care
- Many more thousands of children on already lengthy child care waiting lists
- Countless working parents leaving the workforce
- Thousands of educator small business closures
- Service staff joining unemployment cues in communities right across Australia

Under changes to the Community Support Programme (CSP) in the 2014-15 Federal Budget the Department of Education will cease all CSP contracts with family day care services as of 30 June 2015. All services will need to reapply for CSP funding, and will be assessed under a new eligibility criteria.

Under the new criteria, family day care services will find it very difficult to be deemed eligible to receive CSP funding and as such, the changes will have a dramatic and direct affect on the bottom line of most family day care services.

What is the impact of these changes?

- To compensate for this loss of revenue the options available to services are limited. In some cases cost saving measures and operational efficiencies may account for a small amount of the shortfall in revenue.
- In most cases however services will be forced to increase fees to parents. For a full time child in care (50hrs) the service will need to recover \$34.50 per child per week (more in rural and remote areas).
- In many areas where families do not have the capacity to pay increased fees, services face the very real prospect of closing their doors.

What are we asking of government?

- That the changes to CSP Funding be reviewed to ensure that they do not have unintended consequences including the closure of well established services providing high quality education and care in areas of high need across Australia.
- That the review includes consultation with Family Day Care Australia and state sector associations regarding solutions to the potential impacts of changes to CSP Funding and with services, educators and families to fully understand the impact of the changes.
- That whilst this review is undertaken, the transition times to the new eligibility criteria be extended, to allow sufficient time for services to understand the implications of the new criteria, and where service provision is still considered viable, to implement new business models.
- That consideration be given to a form of "exceptional services" funding to ensure that the funding changes do not result in high quality services closing their doors, leaving families without affordable child care.

How can you help?

- Sign this 'Online Petition' and share the link within your community.
- Tell us how the changes will affect you! Share YOUR story about how the changes will affect YOU. Complete the short survey [click here](#)
- Join the conversation! 'Like' our [Families Need Family Day Care Facebook page](#) for the latest information, to network with your colleagues, to ask questions and to show your support.

Clearly, while the changes to funding directly affect services, every family day care stakeholder from children and parents to educators and service staff, will pay the price of the changes to the Community Support Programme.

On the 21st of August Sharyn met with Terri Butler MP our local Member for the Griffith Electorate, where our office is located. During the meeting we discussed the impact of the cancellation of Community Support Program (CSP) funding on Family Day Care services like ours, their Staff, Educators, Families and Children.

Sharyn handed over dozens of 'Families Need Family Day Care' postcards that had been handed in by Families with Children in care with Kids at Home.



Terri took these to Canberra and made a statement to Parliament on the 26th August to raise our concerns and the impact it will have on the Family Day Care community. (the youtube link has been posted on our Facebook page check it out <https://www.facebook.com/kahfdc?ref=bookmarks>)

If you would like to have your say please see details over page to join us on our "Families Need Family Day Care" campaign, we need to be a united voice!



Here is the template for the Letter to send to the Hon Sussan Ley MP, Assistant minister for Education. Family Day Care Australia have reached over 10,000 signatures so far to support the following letter.

To:
The Hon Sussan Ley MP, Assistant Minister for Education

The recent changes to CSP funding will have a significant impact on my family, my service and my community!

The changes to the Community Support Programme could see thousands of families without child care, many more thousands of children on already lengthy child care waiting lists, countless working parents leaving the workforce, thousands of educator small business closures, and service staff...

The recent changes to CSP funding will have a significant impact on my family, my service and my community!

The changes to the Community Support Programme could see thousands of families without child care, many more thousands of children on already lengthy child care waiting lists, countless working parents leaving the workforce, thousands of educator small business closures, and service staff joining unemployment cues in communities right across Australia.

With adequate time and transitional support, some services cases may implement cost saving measures and operational efficiencies that could account for a small amount of the shortfall in revenue resulting from the loss of funding.

In most cases however services will be forced to increase fees to parents. For a full time child in care (50hrs) the service will need to recover \$34.50 per child per week (more in rural and remote areas).

In many areas where families do not have the capacity to pay increased fees, services face the very real prospect of closing their doors.

Family Day Care Australia and state family day care and educator associations across Australia respectfully request the following and I add my support to these requests:

- a) That the changes to CSP Funding be reviewed to ensure that they do not have unintended consequences including the closure of well established services providing high quality education and care in areas of high need across Australia.
- b) That the review includes consultation with Family Day Care Australia and state sector associations regarding solutions to the potential impacts of changes to CSP Funding and with services, educators and families to fully understand the impact of the changes.
- c) That whilst this review is undertaken, the transition times to the new eligibility criteria be extended, to allow sufficient time for services to understand the implications of the new criteria, and where service provision is still considered viable, to implement new business models.
- d) That consideration be given to a form of "exceptional services" funding to ensure that the funding changes do not result in high quality services closing their doors, leaving families without affordable child care.

Clearly, while the changes to funding directly affect services, every family day care stakeholder from children and parents to educators and service staff, will pay the price of the changes to the Community Support Programme.

I look forward to your response to these requests at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,
[Your name]

Post directly to

Parliament House, Canberra:
Suite M1-44
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

OR

complete the online petition at the link below

www.change.org/en-AU/petitions/the-hon-sussan-ley-mp-families-need-family-day-care

OR email assistant_minister@education.gov.au



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Important information about CCB and CCR Payments

As we have finalised the financial year there are a few things you may need to know that could impact on your **child care payments** over the next financial year period. Throughout the year Centrelink send out information to families to keep them updated and also to advise of the cancellation of CCB and CCR and the reasons why it is being cancelled.

It is the **parents responsibility to ensure** they respond appropriately to the direction that Centrelink are advising or requesting and inform their Educator or Service (Kids at Home) of any changes as these will impact on the payment for child care fees. **If CCB/CCR is cancelled full fee payment is required** until Centrelink have received the information they require and reinstate the Child Care Benefit payment.

It is also important to provide Kids at Home with a valid CRN for both the parent registered with Centrelink and the child/ren that child care is being provided for. If these are not provided CCB and/or CCR will not be applicable whether the payment is being paid to the service or is being paid as a lump sum to the parent. It is the parents responsibility to ensure the service has this important information to ensure it is all linked together to be eligible to receive these payments.

- Visit humanservices.gov.au/families or Family Update on Facebook or tweet @FamilyUpdateUA
- Call 136 150 between 8 am and 8 pm (local time) Monday to Friday
- Call 131 202 if you need information in a language other than English
- Call teletypewriter (TTY) 1800 810 586 (if you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment). A TTY phone is needed to use this service.

Reconciliation of family payments

- During the financial year, a family's CCB fee reductions are a provisional entitlement based on their estimated annual family income. At the end of the financial year, The Department of Human Services compares the family's provisional entitlement with their actual entitlement, based on their taxable income for the year. This process is called 'reconciliation' or 'balancing' of the family's payments.

How reconciliation works

- Reconciliation is done progressively as families lodge tax returns with the Australian Taxation Office. Some families do not have to lodge a tax return and their payments are reconciled automatically.

Later adjustments

1. Reconciliation can result in the family receiving a top up payment, or having to repay the CCB and CCR they should not have received. Once a family has had their entitlement reconciled for a financial year, any further payments and adjustments for the year are managed directly between the family and the Department of Human Services. CCB and CCR for the previous financial year can no longer be paid to the service (Educator) on behalf of the family.
 2. Once a family has been through the reconciliation process Educators will not receive CCB or CCR for attendances submitted or cancelled and resubmitted in the previous financial year as the payment will be managed with the family.
- If the above No 2 point is applicable please be aware that parents may incur a debt with the Educator and payment of fees in this instance will be applicable.

Payment of fees

- Charging of fees is done so on an estimate basis, this is confirmed after attendances have been submitted and processed by the Government. If there are any differences in CCB% or CCB% and CCR has been cancelled your Educator will advise and payment is to be made as per the information provided by the Government. It is the Parents responsibility to follow up their child care subsidy cancellation with Centrelink or to advise the Educator of the changes before hand so these can be applied.
- Full fees will be required to be paid until CCB/CCR is reinstated and the credit will apply to the next fortnights fees where applicable.



Did you know that you can get an app for your phone that you can track your CCB and CCR payments?

It is called
“express plus families” mobile apps



These apps allow you to:

- Update information
- Payments of CCB/CCR (etc) – keeping track of what you are receiving or payments being cancelled
- Letters
- Update Income estimates
- Statements



You can access more information about this on the app via this government link

<http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/express-plus-mobile-apps>

Or go straight to itunes and download via this link

<https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/express-plus-families/id573743329?mt=8>

Parenting Support

Parenting is one of the biggest adventures that you will ever do in your life. Parenting has its challenges and you can relax and ask for advice, support and assistance when needed for your children to teens.

Parent support offers confidential one on one and group courses to allow parenting to be made easier for you, your partner and your children.

The following courses are available to assist parents who are looking for some advice, support and assistance:

Circle of Security Parent/Educator Training – this is an 8 week program about bonding and attachment (certificate on completion)

Fun Friends – Child resiliency Program – this is an 8 week program focusing on emotional and social development

If you would like to find out more information about Parenting Support and the courses it has available please contact Parenting Support - <http://www.parentingsupportededucation.com/>



Metro South Oral Health Services



Free children's dental program

APPOINTMENTS



To make an appointment, please telephone:

1300 300 850

Who is eligible?

✓ **All students in Prep through to year 10***

✓ **Students in years 11 and 12** who have a current Centrelink Card, Healthcare Card or Pension Card

✓ **0-4 year olds** whose parents have a current Centrelink Card, Healthcare Card or Pension Card

✓ **2-17 year olds** who are eligible for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule

* Students who are eligible for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS) will have the cost bulk billed to Medicare. Students who are not eligible will still receive free dental care until the completion of year 10.

health.qld.gov.au/metrosouth/oralhealth

Great state. Great opportunity.



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Nurturing Nature Play: Ten Tips for Parents

Many parents and other adults see the value of restoring nature-based play to children's lives, yet they may be vexed about how to go about it. It's nothing like enrolling a child in a soccer league, or going on an interpretive hike! Instead, it starts with just getting kids into a patch of real nature where they are free to roam. Then the adult's role is to be a gentle facilitator who unobtrusively watches over the play, without directing it. Use restraint, not assertiveness! Let the children lead; give them the freedom to follow their own interests, discoveries, and delights as they explore nature. These simple tips may help you along.



1. Travel down memory lane — Apply the “test of remembered childhoods.” Use your own good memories of nature play to guide the experiences you'd like today's children to enjoy.
 2. Preach it, brother ! (or sister !) — Be an advocate for nature play. Talk it up with friends, teachers, parent organizations — anyone who can influence children's lives and might join in efforts to restore nature play. And ask about folks' own memories of childhood play; it's a great conversation starter!
 3. Plan on no plan — Forget structured activity plans and your adult expectations. Get the kids to a rich natural area and let them decide what to do, where to explore, and how to play.
 4. Trust in nature — It's a fun kinda place that doesn't need fancy play equipment or adult instructors! And don't give up if you hear, “I'm bored.” Be patient, and kids will start exploring on their own.
 5. Embrace flex time — Stay off the clock as much as possible; let the kids' discoveries and active engagement determine the schedule. Watch their play, not your watch.
 6. Be a lifeguard, not a teacher — Let nature be the children's play partner, not you. Intervene only if danger seems imminent, or if you're asked to help.
 7. Small is beautiful — Nature play works great with very young children, too — and they only need small bits of nature! Even crawling babies can delight in the smells and textures of a little herb garden.
 8. All kids come in wash and dry — Dirt don't hurt, and don't sweat the wet! So what if it's messy? You can hose 'em down at the end! Keep old plastic bags handy to protect car seats from wet kids.
 9. Wash, rinse, repeat — Frequent nature play is what best builds kids' lasting bonds with the natural world. Make nature a favorite friend for them to play with, time and time again!
 10. There is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing — Play outside in all safe weather conditions. Why not play in the rain, or wake your kids at 2 a.m. to play in a gentle snowfall?
- Bonus tip: No naturalist needed! — You don't need to be a nature expert. If your child finds something they're interested in, use books or the internet to foster the learning process.

Information from

Green Hearts Institute for Nature in Childhood Bringing Children and Nature Back Together

Green Hearts shares its offices with Big Muddy Workshop:
4502 South 42nd Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68107-1059
402-344-8711 www.greenheartsinc.org kfinch@greenheartsinc.org



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Supporting your child in Early Childhood

The early years are a critical time for your child as they begin to learn skills and abilities they will continue to develop throughout their lifetime.

As a parent or carer, and your child's first teacher, you can play an active role in building the foundation your child needs to develop their literacy and numeracy skills in the future.

Literacy in the early years is about reading, writing and speaking and listening. Reading in the early years can occur through a variety of sources such as books, magazines, logos, signs and grocery packaging. Children can write and talk about the ideas and information they read. They can also discuss, question and reflect on things happening around them.

Young children need to have opportunities to learn to listen and make meaning from the talk of others. Making sure your child understands what they see, hear and read is crucial for literacy learning.

Numeracy is about counting, problem-solving, organising, measuring and estimating, as well as making patterns and sequencing.

Your vital role as a parent or carer

Young children learn through play. As a parent you can help your child learn by sharing fun activities that allow them to experience and explore the world around them.

Young children will learn early literacy and numeracy concepts many different ways. It is important to encourage your child to participate in a range of activities that interest them.

By spending time with your child and giving them lots of encouragement and praise, you will help build their self-esteem and give them the confidence to try new things.

Children's physical skills develop steadily over time, so it is important that expectations of your child's abilities are appropriate for their age.

Ensure your child has access to age-appropriate objects such as thick crayons or paintbrushes to help them develop their physical skills. Young children grasp writing or painting tools in their fist. They make strokes as their skills improve and then they can hold a crayon or pencil between their fingers. It's important to allow





plenty of time for children to develop through these stages to help them gain the control they need to write and ensure it is a fun experience.

You can help your child be prepared for starting kindergarten by letting them mix with other young children through playgroups and other activities.

Attending an early childhood education and care program, such as kindergarten, will give your child a head start to their education.

Be an active parent and speak with your child's new teacher before they start kindergarten. Sharing information about your child's interests and development with their early childhood teacher will help make kindergarten a happy place and a positive experience for your child.

Activities that promote early literacy and numeracy concepts

Here are some fun, everyday activities you can do with your child to help develop their literacy and numeracy skills:

- play word games when out together, such as playing 'I spy' in the car. For young children, you can use colours such as 'I spy something that is red'
- paint and draw — art allows children to express themselves. As your child learns more words you may notice their paintings or drawings become more detailed
- sing songs or nursery rhymes while taking a walk, packing away toys or in the car
- dress up — children can practise their language and communication skills by playing 'make believe'
- play outdoors — pouring water or sand into containers, scales and measuring containers allows your child to explore numeracy concepts
- do a puzzle — puzzles are a great way for children to learn about sizes, shapes and colours
- play with blocks — concepts of size, numbers, patterns and problem-solving can be explored by playing with blocks. You can help extend your child's mathematical and spatial concepts by giving them paper, pencil and a ruler for drawing their block buildings
- ask your child open-ended questions — this encourages them to practise expressing themselves and lets them know you value their thoughts
- think out loud — so your child can learn about how you solve problems
- read books — reading together can be a special and relaxing time. It can help your child enjoy reading from a young age and give them a head start at school.

For more information about how you can help your child's early development visit www.education.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood



Early Childhood

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Paint and draw – art allows children to express themselves. As your child learns more words you may notice their paintings or drawings become more detailed.



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