

JIGSAW

THE MAGAZINE OF FAMILY DAY CARE AUSTRALIA

**Excellence In Family
Day Care Awards
2025: Initial Wrap Up**

**Changing to a direct gap
fee collection model
– what are services saying?**

**Multiculturalism in
family day care
- how to make it a success**

**FDCA 2025 National
Conference Program**

* Meet the FDCA Team * Celebrating 200 years of family day care experience

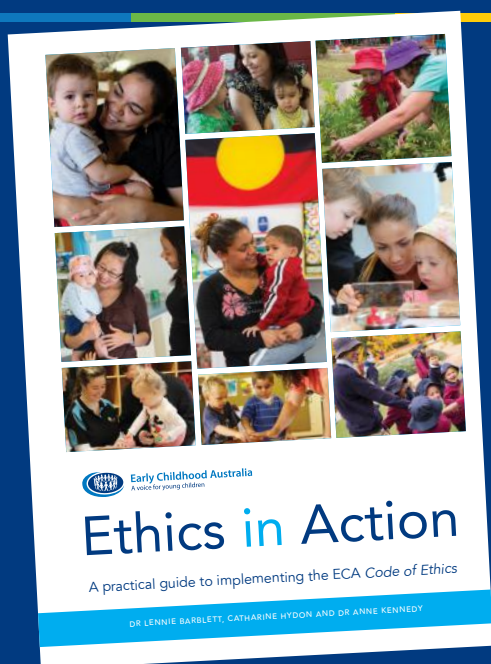
* Loose Parts Play: Building Imagination, Independence, and Connection * Get Tax Ready for 2025 * Be You

* Member Spotlight * ACECQA Update * Scholastic Storytime * PLUS Win prizes for your family day care!



Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

ON OFFER FROM EARLY CHILDHOOD AUSTRALIA



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This essential guide helps educators, managers, leaders and childhood professionals caring for children bring the ECA *Code of Ethics* to life in everyday practice. With case studies, scenarios and practical tools, this resource is designed to make ethics a natural part of your decision-making process.

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Bronte Michell, Watch Me Grow Family Day Care, Enhance Family Day Care - Brisbane Community

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A word from the CEO

Welcome to Edition 108 of JiGSAW Magazine!

With the federal election now behind us, I would like to acknowledge the sector's new Minister, the Hon Dr Jess Walsh, who has been appointed as the Minister for Early Childhood Education. I would also like to thank former Minister, the Hon Dr Anne Aly, for her recognition of the unique value of family day care and support of exciting initiatives like the Family Day Care Capability Trial.

We are well into Awards season, with this year's Excellence in Family Day Care Awards campaign continuing the program's great success with 4,975 nominations received. It's a testament to the role of family day care in communities across Australia and a celebration of the dedication and professionalism of our educators and service staff.

Congratulations to all our members who have been nominated - it's a huge achievement and a tribute to all your hard work. You can see the full list of nominees from page eight.

In only a few short months, the FDCA National Conference will take place and is a must-attend event for anyone in the family day care sector. With inspiring and educational sessions from international neuroscience educator Nathan Wallis, Dual Olympian Dr Jana Pittman and Australia's National Children's Commissioner Anne Hollonds, it's not to be missed. Whatever your passion or area of interest, we're confident the FDCA 2025 National Conference program will offer something that will inspire and engage you. You can read more about all the sessions available in the conference program within the magazine.

In this edition of JiGSAW look out for some informative member contributions including a piece from Mugdha Sathe-Thapar titled, *Multiculturalism in family day care - how to make it a success* which explores how a willingness to learn and embrace other practices can have an impact on the children and families in your service. Marie Armstrong's article *Loose Parts Play: Building Imagination, Independence, and Connection* is full of ideas to foster creativity using loose parts.

We also share stories on some inspiring educators, including nine educators from City of Kingston Family Day Care who have notched up over 200 years of collective family day care experience, and we explore the journey of Jo Lim from Choices Family Day Care, who came from humble beginnings in the Philippines to become a passionate educator.

You'll also have the chance to meet some of the FDCA team in our new *Meet the FDCA Team* segment. Our first edition introduces Lyndall and Tammy from our Advocacy and Engagement Team. We hope you enjoy getting to know the FDCA Team over the coming editions of the magazine.

I hope you enjoy this edition of JiGSAW.

Andrew Paterson
Chief Executive Officer
Family Day Care Australia

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY:

We at Family Day Care Australia acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live and work, the Darkinjung People, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We honour Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' continuous connection to Country, and celebrate their traditions and living cultures.



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THANK YOU

A special thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition of JiGSAW.



Want to improve your understanding of your **Family Assistance Law obligations?**



Whether you're new to the sector or have been working in family day care for a while, it can be challenging to stay across all your legal obligations under Family Assistance Law (FAL). FAL is the legislation that sets the rules for administering Child Care Subsidy (CCS).

Developed by the Australian Government Department of Education, the Get Early Childhood Compliance Knowledge Online (Geccko) resource offers a vital tool for educators, approved providers, and service staff across all approved care types - including family day care - to build understanding of their respective obligations under the FAL.

Geccko offers a wide range of free, self-paced e-learning courses that can be accessed anytime, from anywhere. Each course breaks down key areas of FAL, helping to clarify your responsibilities, decoding the jargon and offering practical examples and guidance to support day to day practice.

Best of all, on completion of each course, you will receive a certificate of completion to download and keep for your records.

In addition to the online courses, Geccko also offers videos, tip sheets, and other helpful resources, which can be ideal for team meetings, onboarding new educators, supporting committee members or service staff, or just purely for individual professional development.

Why it matters

FAL forms the foundation for administering the Child Care Subsidy. Understanding your obligations under FAL isn't just about ticking a compliance box, it is about safeguarding your service, supporting families and maintaining trust with the community and regulators.

Whether you're a family day care educator wanting a refresher or a provider needing to support your team, Geccko is a highly valuable and accessible tool that can help you build and maintain confidence in your compliance knowledge.

To explore the Geccko learning platform and supporting resources, visit the [Department of Education's website](#).

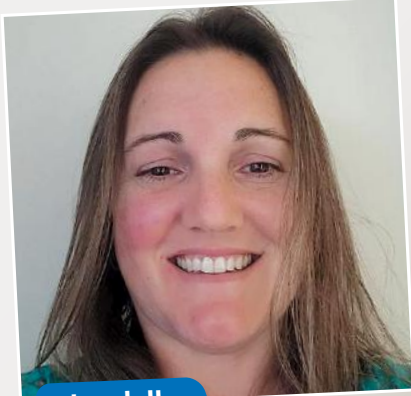
What courses are available on Geccko?

Geccko's course library covers a wide range of essential topics including:

- * Overview of Family Assistance Law and the National Law
- * Reporting Sessions of Care
- * Understanding Enrolments
- * Managing Absences
- * Fit and Proper Person Requirements
- * Working with Children Checks
- * Accurate Fee Reporting
- * Fraud Awareness
- * Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS)
- * Persons with Management or Control (PMC's)
- * First National Cultural Awareness
- * Family Assistance Law Notification Requirements
- * Electronic Payment of Gap Fees

Meet the FDCA Team

Get to know the people behind the scenes at FDCA. In this section, we'll introduce the dedicated team members whose passion, experience and drive, work for you every day!



Lyndall

Sector Support and Engagement Manager
Advocacy and Engagement Team

How long have you been with FDCA?

I've been with FDCA for two and half years.

What's does your role involve?

In my role as Sector Support and Engagement Manager, I oversee member support initiatives, responding to sector related enquiries and manage various projects, ensuring they are delivered on time and in a way that supports the sector.

Tell us about your previous roles within or outside of FDCA.

I began my career as a primary school teacher before transitioning into the Early Childcare Education and Care (ECEC) sector. I spent several years as an educational leader in a long day care setting, where I developed the love and passion for ECEC pedagogy. From there, I moved into the family day care space as a Coordinator and Educational Leader, working alongside educators supporting

them to deliver high quality outcomes for children.

What's one of your favourite parts of your role?

I love the opportunity to connect with educators and providers across the country and to hear their stories. There is something really special about working in a sector where you hear people being so passionate in what they do and committed to making a difference for children and families.

What do you like to do when you're not working?

When I am not working, I am usually hanging out (or maybe it is only transporting) my teenage daughter around to their various sporting commitments, I also love taking my dogs for a walk and spending quality time with my husband.

What's your favourite podcast?

I loved Floored - Early Childhood Stories from the Floor by Kimberley Crisp and Anja Geelen.

How long have you been with FDCA?

Since December 2024, so just over six months.

What's does your role involve?

In my role I provide support on sector specific information including Family Assistance Law, National Law and Regulations. I also work on sector related projects and support the Advocacy and Engagement team.

Tell us about your previous roles within or outside of FDCA.

I was a family day care educator for 11 years before working in family day care administration for the past six and a half years.

What's one of your favourite parts of your role?

Connecting with educators and services and providing them with support to make operating their business easier.

What do you like to do when you're not working?

Spending time with family, variety of craft workshops, wondering markets, sound healings.

What's your favourite food?

Asian influenced - spicy, fresh and delicious.



Tammy

Sector Support Coordinator
Advocacy and Engagement Team

NATIONAL FAMILY DAY CARE WEEK



This year, the thirteenth annual National Family Day Care Week took place from 5-11 May.

The week celebrates the unique benefits of the small group settings, personalised educational programming and flexible hours of care that make family day care the option of choice for so many Australian families.

Chief Executive Officer of FDCA, Andrew Paterson, said, "National Family Day Care Week is the perfect time for the family day care sector to come together nationally and reflect on the important role family day care plays in the lives of Australian children, families and communities."



Across Australia, educators, service staff, children and families took part in hundreds of events held to celebrate National Family Day Care Week.

FDCA hosted the National Family Day Care Week Adventure at the Zoo event at Sydney Zoo. With more than one hundred educators, service staff and children in attendance, the event was a fantastic day out.

The Bungarribee Wildlife Workshop gave children the opportunity to explore Australia's wildlife through Indigenous perspectives. Meeting a snake, turtle and lizard was



a highlight for those who were brave enough!

The children also learnt about traditional music and dance and had the opportunity to be painted with ochre.

Thank you to all those who used the templates and shared your photos during family day care week using the hashtag #fdcweek25. This helps raise the profile of both your own business and the family day care sector.

INITIAL WRAP UP

EXCELLENCE IN FAMILY DAY CARE AWARDS 2025

As we look ahead to the conclusion of the 2025 Excellence in Family Day Care Awards later this year, we're taking a moment to recognise what has already been an incredible Awards season.

This year's nomination period has once again highlighted the deep appreciation and admiration held for the family day care sector, with 4,975 nominations submitted across all categories. This continues a remarkable trend of strong engagement from families, educators, and services alike over the 14-year history of the Awards.

A heartfelt congratulations goes out to all those who were nominated, and a sincere thank you to everyone who took the time to recognise the efforts family day care educators, service staff and services across the country.

The overwhelming number of nominations and the passionate support from the community reflect just how respected and vital our educators, service staff and services truly are. They continue to play

an essential role in supporting the learning, development, and wellbeing of children in family day care environments nationwide.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to the sponsors of the 2025 Awards, whose ongoing support enables us to shine a spotlight not only on individual excellence, but on the strength and commitment of the entire sector.

The winners of the 2025 National Educator, Coordinator, and Service of the Year titles will be announced at the FDCA 2025 National Conference to be held in October 2025.



For more information on the 2025 Excellence in Family Day Care Awards, please visit www.fdca.com.au/awards.

In this edition of JiGS AW we celebrate all our nominees with a full list of this year's nominees available on pages 8 - 12

EDUCATOR NOMINEES

ACT

AMANDEEP KAUR
ANGELA COLLINS
ARUNIKA
MITIYAMULLEARCHCHIGE
BINDIA GUPTA
BROOKE LOGUE
BUSHRA ZEESHAN HUSSAIN
CHAMARI HETTIARACHCHI
CLAIRE ALLARS
DURREADAN AMIR
JASMEET KAUR
KAMALJIT KAUR
KATHRYN HOWIE
LOVEPREET SANDHU
MADEEHA MIANA
MANDANA REZAMANDI FARD
MARIA LOURDES CADIZ
MARIE EMMANUEL
MARY MACKEY
NEHA SHARMA
RAJWINDER KAUR
REZUANA SARWAR
RUPA SIVALINGAM
SADIA KASHIF
SAMINA KOUSER QURESHI
SANIA IFTIKHAR
SIMRAT KAUR
SONJA RADONJIC
TAMMY HEIRDSFIELD
THUSHARA SIRIWARDANA
VICKI MICHALOPOULOS
VICKI SHEARD
ZENUM SHENWUN

NSW

AANCHAL VASHISHAT
ACACIA DECKER
AFROZA YASMIN
AHREUM LEE
AKSHPREET SANDHU
ALANA HUNTER
ALANA SLADE
ALBINA EVANS
ALEISHA WADE
ALI SHARMIN
ALICE MORRIS
ALINA WAHIB
ALISON COLLING
ALISON DUFFY
ALISON MAREE BARRETT
ALISON MCWHIRTER
ALYSSIA BARRETT
AMANDA BAILEY
AMANDA JANE JOOSEN
AMANDA RHOOK
AMANDA SCOTT
AMANDEEP BATRA
AMBER BARTON
AMELIA TRAVISANY
AMINA EBRAHIM
AMINA SCHLUTER
AMY STALLARD
ANA CERQUEIRA
ANAMIKA VERMA
ANASTAZIJA ZOHAR
ANGELA COFFEY
ANGELA MIDDLETON
ANIKAH MCCOY
ANITA BABAR
ANITA JOHNSON
ANITA MARWAHA
ANJU DEWANGAN
ANNE KEITH
ANNETTE FISICARO
ANNETTE SMITH
ANN-MAREE HERDEN
ARCHANA GUPTA
AREEN JAN
ASHLEE NELSON
ASHLEY STURGISS
ASMA YEHIA-ISMAIL
ATIQA REHMAN
ATIYA KHAN
AYELET SINGER
AYSHA DHILLON
AZITA AFZALI
BANANI HANDIQUE
BARBARA FRASER

BARNALI LAHA
BELINDA BROOKS
BELINDA DEAVES
BELINDA HALLIGAN
BELINDA HAWKINS
BELINDA MORRIS
BERNADETTE BIRMINGHAM
BEVERLEY ROLLINGS
BHARTI SINGH DEO
BIANCA HORSFALL
BIN JIA
BITA ZONOZI
BREANNA MOTTLEE
BROOKE GARLINGE
BROOKE SELLERS
BUSHRA AHMED
CANDIDA RIBEIRO
CARLA CONLAN
CARMEN IANNI
CAROLINE LINDSAY
CAROLYN DEEGEN
CASSANDRA PHOENIX
CATHERINE GEORGE
CECILE CHRISTENSEN
CELIA DARLEY
CHANDIMA NANAYAKKARA
CHANIE MCCOMBIE-DOUGLAS
CHELSEA LOCKWOOD
CHERYL ANNE INGRAM
CHERYL ANNE MCQUILLAN
CHIH-LIN WU
CHING HUI
CHRISTIE DOVEN
CHRISTIE MERCHANT
CHRISTINE ALCHIN
CHRISTINE CONDITSIS
CHRISTINE COOK
CHRISTINE SCHUCK
CHRISTINE YOUNG
CINDI MERCER
CLAIR ROBB
CLAIR ROBERTS
CLAIRE BARTON
CLAIRE DEWHIRST
CLAIRE KNEWSTUB
CRISTAL PAPPAS
CRISTY OLIVER
CRYSTAL BRENEGER
CYMMON PARKER
DANIELA TAYLOR
DANIELLE BRUCE
DANIELLE KEMP
DANIELLE LANGLEY
DANIELLE MOYON
DANNIS ANEZ
D'CYNTHIA HAMILTON
DEANNA BROWN
DEBORAH HOLMAN
DEEPTI GUPTA
DELWYN GOLIGHTLY
DENISA BELINIC
DERDRIE D'LIMA
DESPINA MAMOUNIS
DHANA LAKSHMI DEVARAPALLI
DIALA AYACHE
DIANA DJAJADI
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FARIBA SADAT
FARIDA KHIILAWALA
FARJANA KHAN
FIONA KING
FIONA LENZ
FIRYAL YOUSIF LAWI
FOUZIA SARDER
GABRIELA GASINSKA
GAIL RIDDELL
GAIL WARID
GALINA ANCHIK
GARLYN ROSALIE GILLEGO
GEORGIA BERRIMAN
GEORGIA HUGLER
GEORGIA PLATT
GEY SOON SHIN
GUANGXIA CHEN
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HAESOL YOON
HAIFENG YU
HALYNA DAVID
HANAN IDRIS
HANNAH ALIZAR GREENE
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HAYLEY WALTON
HEERIM LEE
HELEN GALLATLY
HELEN MACOLINO
HOLLY WINCHESTER
HOON HEE JOUNG
HYEIL JANG
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INGE VAN MENSEL
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JA YOUNG LEE
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JANET DIB
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JUNG IM CHOI
KALAISELVI SURESHBABU
KALIKA ABAYAKONE
KODITUWAKKU ARACHCHIGE
KAREN GOZZARD
KAREN GRIEVE
KAREN GUALDI
KAREN HEGGIE
KAREN MCLAREN
KAREN REFALO
KAREN SAWYERS
KAREN TURLEY
KASSANDRA DAVIS
KATE BELTON

KRISTEN MERCECA
KRISTINE WHITWORTH
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KRISTY LEE O'NEILL
KRISTY MILLER
KRISTY TRAJKOVSKI
KRUTI THAKKAR
KRYSTAL PEREIRA
KUI YOUNG SEO
KYLIE AGRESTI
KYLIE BURFIELD
KYLIE CROKER
KYLIE HAZELL
KYLIE MCGOVERN
KYLIE METCALFE
KYLIE MONTGOMERY
KYLIE VISINTIN
KYONGA KIM

MANI KUMARI RALLAPALLI
MANONMANI RANGANATHAN
MARGARET ANN KING
MARIA GRIGORYAN
MARIA JACINTA LOPES
COSTA MAC
MARIA OLETU
MARIE GABRIELLE RAYMOND
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MARINA YOUSIF
MARITES GIBSON
MARLYN PACIONE
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MARY DUNSMORE
MARY NOBILLO
MARY WOODS
MARYAM MURADY
MARY-CAITLIN HOITINK
MATIA ELAHI
MAWARNI LO
MAYSSAA CHMEIT
MAYURIBEN SHAHKAR
MEE KYUNG PARK
MEENAKSHI DHIMAN
MEGAN BURFORD
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NAOMI ELIZABETH DAVIS
NARGIS SULTANA
NARI KIM
NASISE YONAS
NATALIE ANN WILLIS
NATALIE JAYNE SWAN
NATASHA BRUTON



From day one, she created a warm, nurturing, and safe environment where our daughter felt comfortable, engaged, and excited to learn.

KATE MAYBURY
KATE MURPHY
KATE SCOTT
KATE WOODS
KATEY HUI
KATHERINE PALMER
KATHLEEN HALL
KATHLEEN WHYTE
KATHRYN DELANEY
KATHRYN HOGAN
KATIE GORTON
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LEEANDA ANGUS
LEENA MALHOTRA
LEIGH EWING
LELIA WONG
LESIA MIRCHUK
LINDA RISTEVSKI
LINDA TANDY
LIPING YE
LISA COLLYER
LISA HUNTER
LISA SALTMARSH
LORELLE MARGARET HOLT
LORRAINE FRASER
LOUISE MAY HILL
LOUISE WATSON
LOUISE WHITE
LOURDES HERNANDEZ
LUANA REYS
LUCIANA OTTO
LYDIA HANA
LYNDA TATTERSALL
MAGDA SANCHEZ
MAGDALENA MAGER
MAGEDA MOHSEN
MAHA SAYEGH
MAHANADA JAMBLE
MALTI MADAMANA

EDUCATOR NOMINEES

NATASHA COATES
NATASHA REBUCK
NAVIT KOUR SACHDEV
NEVINE MOUSA
NICHOLE SECKOLD
NICOLA LEESON
NICOLA OATES
NICOLE ALBURY
NICOLE CORNWELL
NICOLE DEAHM
NICOLE HODGINS
NICOLE MORRISON
NIDHI SUD
NIHARIKA TALATI
NOUSHIG MANOUK
NOZVEEN KHAN
OKGA CHOI
OLGA DIK
OZGEN OZKAYACAN
PANIDA MURPHY
PANNIPA ONKHAI
PATRICIA CAYO REINOSO
PATRICIA SILVIA
PATRICIA ULBERG
PAULA PAULING
PAULINE FORD
PAULINE REFALO
PENELOPE POTTS
PETRA WOODLEY
PETRINA MOORE
PING ZHONG
POOJA KOCHER
PRATIMA PETER
PRATIVA SHAW
QIAN XU
RACHAEL BARTLETT
RACHEL ANDERSON
RACHEL HAMMOND
RACHEL MALLAS
RACHEL RICHARDS
RACHEL SLATER
RACHEL WILSON
RAELENE RODRIGUEZ
RAJA JAO
RAJVEER KAUR
RAJWINDER KAUR
RAJWINDER KAUR
RAN KIM
RANI COMARMOND
RASIKA WEERASINGHE
RATCHANAPORN PETNARK
RAYLENE CORDINA
REBECCA ALLEN

RHONDA BEATTY
RHONDA DE FERRANTI
RIFAT SAEED
RIMPY GUPTA
RITA KHAUSHU
ROBYN DEETH
ROCHANA THONGNUAPAD
ROCHELLE BRITTON
ROHINA ALAMI
ROSEMARIE KILCAR
ROWENA SHIPTON
RUTH DUGMORE
RUTH ZOGBHI
RYOJIN KIM
SABILA ISLAM
SABRINA KELLY
SABRINA SATTER
SAHAR JUNAID
SALLY BARNES
SALLY FORAN
SALLY SPLITT
SALMA TAQIAN
SAMANTHA CHIPPINDALE
SAMANTHA KING
SAMANTHA KING
SAMANTHA VAKA
SAMIRA HAJI
SANDRA ATTWOOD
SANDY CLARK
SANGEETA SHARMA
SARAH BARRETT
SARAH GARDNER
SARAH KORFF
SARAH METCALFE
SARAH SNELSON
SARAH WATTS
SARAJEET CHAUDHARY
SARIKA ARORA
SARITHA VISHWANATH
SARMIN NAHAR
SE MI PARK
SELINA FRANK
SEOKMEE YOON
SERGUT WELDAIAS
SHABANA KHAN
SHABNAZ RAHMAN
SHAHANA SOKHI
SHAIMIN KHAN-SHARIFF
SHAMALA BAI
SHAMIM SULTANA
SHAMIRAN BIKHOSHO
SHARNTAE STEVENS
SHARON RICHES
SHEREE MANTLE
SHERIDAN O'RORDAN
SHIVA SHAHRIARY
SHOKO WARK
SHWETA DAHAL
SIMONE ANNE MARTIN

SOMAYEH SOLTANI
SONIA ARANGO
SONIA JASWAL
SOO YOUNG PARK
SOOKKYOUNG SEO
SOUKYUNG LEE
SREEVIDYA YADATISASTRULA
STACEY PAREZANOVIC
STACEY TEBB
STACEY WALSH
STELLA CHUNG
STEPHANIE GULLIFORD
STEPHANIE OPPIO
STEPHANIE SCANES
STEPHANIE UNG
SU JIN GA
SUAN LIAN CING VANGAW
SUHA AMARA
SUMERA SALAM
SUREKA KODIPPILY
SUSAN CASSAR
SUSAN IOANNOU
SUSAN WRATTEN
SUSANNAH DAVEY
SUZANA TRAJKOVSKI
SUZANNE JANE BECKMAN
SYADA NASIMA KHAYER
SYEDA RIZWANA HAMID
SYEDA ZAIDI
TAMMY LITT
TANJINA NASRIN
TATE BRITTON
TAYLAH BOND
TAYSHA WORTHY
TENIEL CAPPER
TERESA CAFE
THAIS CRISTINA GUARALDO
THERESA SEYMOUR
TIANA FAIZON-VASSALLO
TINA CASE
TONI SMITH
TRACEY FRANCIS
TRACY DRISCOLL
TRACY LEE CAIRNS
TRACY-LEE RENNIE
TRISTEN GRAHAM
TRUDY SMALLWOOD
ULTIMA CELDRAN CLANCY
UNA MC ALEENAN
VAISHNAVI GOPALAKRISHNAN
VALERIE HUME
VANESSA EDWARDS-ELLIS
VARSHA AHUJA
VICKI LANCASTER
VIJAY KIRTI
VIVIANE ARNOLD
WAFIA ELMABROUK
WANDA ALMEIDA
WEN LI
WENDY CROUCH
WOORYOUNG JANG
XIZHEN LIN
YADVINDER KAUR
YAN HUA XU
YAO FU
YASUKO KINOSHITA
YEON JU AN
YING LIN
YOUNG A LEE
YOUNG JOO LEE
YOUNG SOOK KIM
YOUNG SOON PARK
YOUNG YOUNG HONG
YOUNGLAN LEE
YOUNGMI CHO
YOUN-SUN OH
YUANYUAN CAO
YUJIN JO
YUN HEE HWANG
YUNMI YUN
YVETTE MACKENZIE
YVONNE ROMA MCALISTER

NT

ARPHON AUNTASI
HAYDEE FORTE
NARIETA TINAKULABU
TARA KASPAR

QLD

AFROZA KHANAM
AFROZA SULTANA
AGNES VASVARINE EDL
AIDEEN DALY
AKANKSHA MAHAJAN
AKILA GNANARAJ
ALANA GIBSON
ALEISHA SMITH
ALICIA GLOCK
ALISA CURTIS
ALISON RAMKE
ALLANAH REEVES
ALLISON THOMSON
ALYSHA MCNEILL
AMANDA BALBI
AMANDA CROSS
AMANDA DALEY
AMANDA PETERS
AMANDA RAMM
AMANDA WROE
AMANJOT SIDHU
AMBER BROWNE
AMILIA CROOK
AMY DAVIDSON
AMY FOTI
AMY LIVERY
AMY TAYLOR
ANAMIKA POTTANGADI
CHOORAI
ANGELA SWIFT
ANGELA YORK
ANN HILLS
ANNIE SCANLAN
ANOMA DASANAYAKE
ANTHONY HANCOCK
ASFINA RAHMAN
ASHLEA ZAMMIT
ASHLY MISSINGHAM
ASHTON POSCH
BEBINA BADIOLA
BECKY SULLIVAN-HOGBIN
BELINDA LAWN
BELINDA WOOLER
BHARTI DHILLON
BOBBIE-LEA BURGESS
BONNIE SCHULZE
BREANNA IMRIE
BREE ARCHER
BRENDA RUSH
BRIANA SIMPSON
BRITTANY HARMSWORTH
BROOKE FRUNKS
CA HLAWN
CATLIN WATSON
CAI-YING HUANG
CANDICE BERNARD
CANDICE CROSS
CANDY LOOMAN
CARMELENA KANNELMAE
CAROLYN LEEK
CASEY DOWD
CATHERINE NICHOLSON
CATHIE HEALY
CATHY KULP
CESEL AVILA
CHANDIMA GOONEWARDENA
CHANDRA PRATHAPASINGHE
CHANTELLE DELLER
CHARLENE MYERS
CHERALEA JAYNE ARDREY
CHERRIE MCFARLANE
CHLOE LIDDLE
CHRISSE BAULD
CHRISTINA JANE
CHRISTINE ANDREATTA
CHRISTINE ROSENGREEN
CINDY SUTTON
CLARE LAKE
COLLEEN GRAHAME
COLLEEN HOURIGAN
COLLEEN MCKECHNIE
CONNIE LAMMERS
CRAIG MCIVOR
CRYSTAL LEE CONNOR
DALENA SUTTON
DANIELLE CRAMOND
DANIELLE VAN VEEN
DEBBIE RUF
DEBORAH ADAMSON
DEBORAH ROBINSON
DENA CRONLY
DENISE HAMILTON



She is everything you
want in a coordinator,
knowledgeable,
approachable, nurturing
and encouraging.

DENYSE ROBINSON
DESIREE TOPACIO
DIANNE SMITH
DONNA FYFE
ELIESE JONES
ELISHA LISTER
ELISHA MADDOCK
ELIZA SAXTON-HAUSER
ELIZABETH ANNE ARMSTRONG
ELIZABETH MARY PASCOE
EMMA BROXHAM
EMMA DENSON
ERI TAKAMIZAWA
ERICA MURRAY
ERIKA BOBOK
ERIN MENCHIN
EUN-JUNG LEE
FAZILET ISMAIL
FELICA BURRIDGE
FELICITY PHILP
FIONA BAXTER
GAYE FOWLER
GENEVIEVE DABRERA
GEORGINA ZADEL
GILLIAN LEE MURRAY
GLYNIS ANNE KING RANKIN
GRACE MCCARTY
GRY POWERS
HA LEE
HANNAH NEILL-BALLANTINE
HARGEET KAUR SIDHU
HAYLEY HANSEN
HAYLEY OATS
HAYLEY SHAW
HE HAO
HEATHER THOMSON
HEM LATA PRASKASH
HERENESA TUALA
HERTA BOEHM
HSIAO-RU WU
HYEJEONG SONG
HYO SUNG KIM
HYUNJI KIM
HYUNSU MIN
IMOGEN BOYD
ISHANI GALKANDAGE
JACINTA WEIR
JACQUELINE EDWARDS
JACQUELINE GUEST
JADE BYTHEWAY
JADE POWER
JANA WEIDNEROVA
JANE CHANGUION
JANE EDWARDS
JANELLE MCIVOR
JANE-MAREE LAKEY
JANETTE LEWIS
JANICE PRICE
JASMIN SCHAFER
JASSLEEN SIDHU
JAZZ LAMBERT
JEANNETH BHATTACHARYYA
JENNIFER BROWN
JENNIFER MICHELL
JENNY RUTHERFORD
JESSICA HEFFERNAN
JESSICA LY
JESSICA PONCIANO
JESSICA SIMS
JIAN SHAO
JILLIAN PACE
JOANNE DONOVAN
JOANNE KELLY RIDDELL
JODIE BARCLAY
JODIE GREGSON
JOELLE BARNES
JOLENE JOHNSTON

JOSEPHINE ERICA EADIE
JOSEPHINE ROBERTSON
JOYCE TOALA
JULIA JONES
JULIE ANN RYMER
JULIE CLOUGHESSEY
JULIE CONWAY
JULIE CUTTS
JULIE FINCH
JULIE HILLS
JULIE-ANNE CHAPMAN
JULIETA APOSTOL
KA MAN LEE
KACIE HOTCHKISS
KANTHI SAMARASINGHE
KANWAL KAUR
KAREN CHADWICK
KAREN HEDRICK
KAREN HORSWOOD
KAREN LIELS
KAREN MCNAUGHT
KAREN MCQUEEN
KAREN NOYOLA
KATE MCGUINNESS
KATHERINE BEIL
KATHI LOUISE JOHNSTON
KATHLEEN MCGROGAN
KATHRYN PHILP
KATIE BREINGAN
KATIE COOMBER
KATIE TAYLOR
KATRINA ASHMORE
KATRINA WILLIAMS
KAWALJIT KAUR CHHINA
KELLIE HILDER
KELLIE MCDONALD
KELLIE-MARIE SVENSSON
KELLIE-MARIE WRIGHT
KELLY JOHNS
KELLY MCGREGOR
KELLY MILES
KERRI-ANN HANKIN
KHESAN HORVAT
KIERSTEN RUDELL
KIM EKLOM
KIMBERLEY MCCURLEY
KIRSTY GILLIS
KRISTIE WARD
KRISTY KNIGHT
KRISTY MASON
KRISTY MCCONNELL
KYLEE BOWMAN
KYLIE BROWN
KYLIE COOMBS
KYLIE JAMES
KYLIE MORRIS
KYLIE SEELEY
KYLIE SMITH
KYLIE WYATT
KYONG HI BEA
LAFABE FAAFIU
LAURA AUSTEN
LAURA MADSHAW
LAURA RIGBY
LAUREN HAMILTON
LEANNE DANIELLS
LEANNE WATERS
LEEANNE GOODES
LEIGH FERNANDEZ DA CRUZ
LESLEY ADAMS
LESLEY WRIGHT
LETITIA MCGILL
LINDA CHOI
LINDA FLEMING
LINDA HOLLAND
LISA BLANCH
LISA HALLAM



Our educator
consistently demonstrates
an exceptional ability to
create captivating and
educational experiences for
the children in her care.

REBECCA DOIDGE
REBECCA HARRISON
REBECCA SETTER
REBECCA STEWART
REHANA MALEQUE
RENATA STIPANOVIC
RENEE BROOKER
RENEE WORTHINGTON

SIMONE BUTLER
SIMRANJIT KAUR GILL
SKYE-LEE CABRERA
SMITHA JITHESH
SMRITI DAS
SO MI LIM
SOFIA DUTTA
SOJIN JEON

LISA RUSSELL
LISEMAY TOWNSEND-LALLOO
LOIS JEANETTE TOMS
LOIS WHITE
LOUISE BAKER
LUCY SYME
LUZYA WIID
LYNELL STACEY
LYNELLE NORTON
MAHMUDA CHOWDHURY
MAIGAN KUHT
MANDEEP KAUR
MANDY POLZIN
MANU PARMAR
MARGARET HANNAN
MARGARET JOYCE SAUNDERS
MARIAMA KAMARA
MARIE YATES
MARY JANE DAPA
MAVIS MAHAVI
MAYRA PORTILLO
MEGAN CRUST
MEGAN HILL
MELINDA GILLIEATT
MELISSA LEACH
MELODY GEERLING
MI YEON YANG
MIAE CHU
MICHELLE COWAN
MICHELLE WOONTON
MIHYANG JANG
MIRANDA DAVIS
MIRANDA MASON
MONICA-LOUISE PARSONS
MONIKA MAHI
NADIA RUSSO
NADINE PENNEY
NAOKO HOSHINO
NARELLE WATERS
NATALIE CLARK
NATALIE EDWARDS
NATALIE HOHL
NATALIE LAWRENCE
NATALIE RASCH
NATASHA MCKNOULTY

REBECCA DENNIS
REBECCA FRYER
REBECCA LACEY
REBECCA TEN CATEN
REBECCA WILD
REBECCA WOOD
RENAE GREEN
RENAME MULLER
RENE CAMPBELL
RENE FASSOULIS
RENEE MCKOY
RHONDA CAIN
RIMA SANDHU
ROCHELLE OUGH
ROHINI KUMAR
RONDELLE PRYCE
ROSHIM FALL
ROSLYN DE BRUIJN
RUBA AKHTER
SABIRA ALI
SALLY FAULKNER
SALMA MOUSALI
SAM HAWKE
SAMANTHA CORKERY
SAMANTHA HOLMES
SAMRAWIT YEMRU
SANDRA BERRIOS
SANDRA HELEN BATTY
SANDRA OHNSORGE
SARA BLATTNER
SARA HORNE
SARAH POLLARD
SARAH RUSSELL
SCHYNANE BROUGHTON
SEA JUNG KIM
SELAFINA AH-YEN
SEON HEE HEO
SERENA SAURINI
SESILIA WULF
SHAANDRA MASON
SHAE-LEE STACEY
SHARMON CAROL SCHROEDER
SHARNA-LEIGH FULWOOD
SHARON BODEN
SHARON CHRISTENSON

SUSAN HAYSLEDEN
SUSANA LU
TABATHA NORMAN
TALLARA ACKERMAN
TAMARA HORO
TAMIKA LIMB
TAMMY BROOKS
TAMMY FOX
TANIA BOOTH
TARA SMITH
TAYLOR HILL
TEAGAN BRETZ
TEENA JAMES
TEGAN WILLIAMS
TEMPANY-PAIGE MCFARLANE
TENNILLE GALLAGHER
THERESA FEIRCLOUGH
THERESE WASON
TIFFANY RENNIE
TIFFANY WILSON
TONI HARDING
TOSHIE CLAYTON
TRACEY COLEMAN
TRACY BESWICK
TRICIA BROWNSEY
TRUDIE PENNEKAMP
URITH SHIELD
VANESSA CHAMBEL
VEERPAL KAUR
VERONICA SLEAN
VINODHINI SMITH
VIVIAN PEIL GONCALVES
WON SOOK AN
YEONGJIN HUR
YILIN LIU
YUMEKO SUZUKI
YUNHAO ZHANG
ZOE SCHWARZ

SA

AJA PAUL GEORGE
ALANA WHITE
ALICE BROTHERWOOD
ALLISON LINKE
AMY ZANDER
ANNE MUMFORD
ANNETTE GOSDEN
ANNETTE KAYE HUTT
ANTOINETTE LINES
APRIYANI MCDERMOTT
AYESHA ALAM
BELINDA COX
BRIANNA BUSSENSCHUTT
BRITNI MCIVER
CARLIE WOODS
CASSIE SMITH
CATHERINE HOWLETT
CEINWEN WALTON
CHARLOTTE HASSANI
CHELSEA PARKER
CHLOE SMALL
COURTNEY RIBBONS
DANIEL JACKSON
DANIELLE CHERNEKOFF
DARPANA BHALODIA
DAWN SOARES
DAYNA RUSHTON
DEBBIE JOHNSON
DEBRA-ANN SKELTON
DIANNE DIBBEN
DIVYANKA KHANNA
DONNA RICHTER
DORATHY JOYCE DAVID
DUNG NGUYEN
EDEN ARASAD
EMILY MULHOLLAND
FIONA HARKNESS
FIONA JACKSON
FRANCA LAUB
GEORGIA BAGG
HANNAH RASMUSSEN
HELEN JANE DEVLIN
HELEN LOW
HIMELDA ISMED
HINA SONI
HUAN LI
JANNIFER JANE THIELE
JEAN CAPILITAN
JING WEI

JOANNE PAYNE
JODI FERSCHL
JODIE HERITAGE
KAITLYN WHITE
KAREN HACK
KAREN MURPHY
KAREN SINNOTT
KATE HODGKISON
KATE LAMBRASIS
KATE MACLUCAS
KATHERINE ANDERSON
KELSEY NEIGHBOUR
KERRIE WATERS
KIRANDEEP KAUR BATH
KRISTY MORO
LAUREN SIVOUR
LEANNE KIRKBRIDE
LEISA CASEY
LEONIE HUTCHESON
LEONNE GAYE CAPE
LISA ANN ROE
LISA DANIEL
LISA PETERSON
LIZ BUTSON
LOAN HUYNH
LUCIANA SCIARRONE
MALAWARA A PERERA
MANDY DOLMAN
MARIA ELIZABETH RICHTER
MARIE SKINNER
MARYANN ZAMMIT
MEENAKSHI MAHAJAN
MICHELLE LISSIMAN
MICHELLE MOORE
MONIKA COWIN
MOST SHAMEMA NAZMIN
NAHIDA OBEID
NGA MAN KWAN
NIKKI BARNARD
NILMINI ALWIS
OANH TRAN
PAM SIMS
PAMELA GURSANSKY
PRABHPREET KAUR
RACHEL ELFENBEIN
RANDEEP KAUR
REBECCA COLLINS
ROCHELLE NAGEL
SARAH PARKIN
SEEMA DEVDA
SKYE CAMPBELL
SOMAIA NAZARI
STEPHANIE HOY
SUSAN TULIPANO
SUSANA PINHEIRO
DE GONZALEZ
TAI VO
TANIA KAHL
TARA LEDAN
TARA UTING
TERESA SEREM
TRACEY HAWKINS
TRANG PHAM
VANESSA RATCLIFF
WENDY JUDD
ZAHRA POREDIL
ZOE TRAEGER

TAS

ANGELA PHILLIPS
ANGELINA BELL
ANNA HARVE
BARBARA GREEN
BRENDA GRAETZ
BRITTANY FOSTER
BRONWYN BARBER
CAITLIN BROWN
CARLENE DARBY
CHARNE CHANDLER
CHRISTINE LOUISE BRYCE
CINDY JONES
COLETTE LOCKYER
COLLEEN KENNEDY
CRYSTAL HEATHCOTE
CRYSTAL WAY

CYNTHIA ELLA
DEBBIE HOLMBERG
DEBORAH BAILEY
DEMI CAHILL
DENISE PETERS
DIMITY LEE
DORKA KABAIVANOF
ELIZABETH DENNIS
EMMA MCLELLAN
GEORGIA Tiffin
HAYLEY-JANE STEADMAN
HEATHER ANNE HARPER
HELEN PATRICIA HORTON
JAYNE WIGGINS
JECHELLE LOVELL
JING YANG
JOANNE GARDNER
JODIE WITZEMAN
JOHANNA VENNOLA
JULIE HEMMINGS
KARREN SILVER
KATE ROLF
KATHLEEN GUARD
KATHRYN BOWERMAN
KELLIE CRAWFORD
KENDAL PETERS
KIM DONALDSON
KIRSTEN REDSTONE
KIRSTY FRANKLIN
KYLE THOMPSON
LEANNE MAREE SWAIN
LISA GLEESON
LISA LAWLESS
LISA MCFARLANE
LYDIA BURR
MANDY MACPHERSON
MAXINE BURR
MELISSA ANNE SWARDS
MICHELLE STEPHENS
MICHELLE WALKER
MILENA BADGER
NATALIE MAREE Tiffin
NATALIE WALL
NICOLE MCKEOWN
PAMELA STONE
PENNY CAMERON
RACHEL SEABOURNE
REANA BAILLIE
REBECCA GATES
REBECCA JAMES
RENEE MCLELLAN
RENSKE SMITH
RHONDA BOOTH
SAHANA FATHIMA JAHANGIR
ALI
SHARON SULZBERGER
SIMONE JANE SLATER
STACEY HALL
STEPHEN MOONEY-PURSELL
SUSANNA HABERLE
SVITLANA BRASHER
TAMARRA LOUISE HILDER
TAMMY CRANFIELD
TANIA POWELL
TANYA BANKS
TENEALE JORDAN
TINA SANSOM-KARPPA
TRACY ANNE PURSELL
TRUDY CHILCOTT
YVETTE BAKER

VIC

AIMEE KEAYS
ALEJANDRA SIERRA BUITRAGO
ALLISON HARVEY
AMANDA FELLOWS
AMANDA STREBS
AMANDEEP KAUR
AMANDEEP KAUR
AMUTHARANI SIMINI

ANGELA LLOYD
ANGELA MAMMONE
ANGELA PAWAR
ANJU YADAV
ANN GREGSON
ANNE BELL
ANTONIETTA SERRA
ANUPAMA SHARMA
AREEBA KAZIM
ARIANE AZOOR
ARUNA AURISH
ASIYA KHATOON
ASRAA KHAIMAKANI
AYNUL AYSHA ABDHULLAH
MOULANA
AYUSHI PUNJ
BAHIRA DAROUGH
BELINDA OELLERMANN
BELINDA RYER
BHARATHI VARADAN
CANDICE RANDALL
CARLY FRANCIS
CARMEL TARANTO
CARRIE MCNAMARA
CASEY SEIDEL
CESARIA GARCIA
CHANTELLE HIAH
CHELSEA NAGEL
CHLOE MCDONALD
CHLOE WEIR
CHRISTELLE LEFORT
CHRISTINE SHANAHAN
CHUN XU
CHUNJIA CAI
CIHAN FILIZ COMLEKIOGLU
DANIELLE KENNEDY
DAO MAI THI NGUYEN
DEANA GREEN
DEBBIE ROBERTS
DEBRA MACLEOD
DEBRA RICHARDS
DEEPIKA CHOUDHARY
DENEAL YOUNGHUSBAND
DENENE NOWELL
DILANI OLAGAMAGE
DILHANI NANAYAKKARA
DINA HAMEED
DISHA PUJAR
DOROTHY HATROTE
EDIE PEIRCE
ELAINE ROBINSON
ELISSAR ELHAWLI
ELIZABETH PAGE
EMAN ELHAOUILI
EMAYA SAMARANAYAKE
EMILY KREIDL
EMMA WINKLER
ERIKA PUSKAS
ERIKA TATIANA TORRES GARCIA
FAIREEN BEGUM
FATHIMA SANOOZIYA ISSADEEN
FATIMA ZAHRA
FAUZIA HUGGINS
FEROOZEH MOKARI
FLORINA CLAUDETTE FERNANDO
FUNG KAM YU
GAMANDEEP KAUR
GAYANI HIDELEARACHCHI
GERALDINE BROWN
GIANG PHAM
GISELLE MAASSEN
GLENDA JOY ROGERSON
GRACE HYDE
HAJERA SHAHEEN



They are an amazing scheme and service to be a part of as an early childhood educator. The opportunities, the support, the continued PD provided and the constant praise and recognition that is given to all coordinators, educators and families, they go above and beyond.

NATHANEA BELLAS
NAYANA KOLAMMUNE
NICOLA INGHAM
NICOLE ARMSTRONG
NIKITA-MAREE JOHNSON
OLIVIA BAIN
PAMELA OUGH
PANTHIYAGE DABARE
PATRICIA HUGGETT
PAULINE ANDREASSEN
PETA CREELMAN
PETA GANNON
PETA KENNEDY
PORNCANOK
SUNGKAHAPONG
PREMA JEGATHEESAN
QIAN LI
QINYU ZHOU
RACHAEL BACH
RACHAEL DYER
RACHAEL FLETCHER
RAELENE HUGHES
REBECCA DAVIES

SHARON CRICK
SHARON ELFORD
SHARON FOX
SHARON LEE ROWELL
SHARON WILSON
SHAUNA BAIN
SHEILA ELLERY
SHEREE RYAN
SHERRIE SUTCLIFFE
SHERYN WOODS
SHINE CHIGWIDEN
SONIA TOWNSON
SONTAYA COOPER
SONYA REYNOLDS
SRI YANTI
SRIYANI FERNANDO
STACEY NORRIS
STACEY WILSON
STEFFANIE STEVENSON
STELLA WILSON
STEPHENE OLSEN
SU JIN LEE
SUN OK KONG

EDUCATOR NOMINEES

HANG THUY THI NGUYEN
HARINI NAIDU
HARJOT KAUR
HEMA JANGRA
HINABEN PATEL
HO GEOK TAN
HONGXIA LI
INGA PHILLIPS
IQRA ASIM
IVY DAPITO
JACLYN PEIRCE
JACQUELINE SESTITO
JADE WILLIAMS
JAIME WILSON
JANA RAPOPORT
JANE TAYLOR
JANELLE YOUNG
JANINA SHARER
JASLEEN KAUR
JAYANI PRASADIKIA
JEGATHA BENNY
JENNY SHUTE
JESSICA MUNDAY
JESSICA STAGOLL
JIRONG WANG
JOANNE BELL
JOANNE DELALAND
JOANNE LEE HAGUE
JORDANA GOLDEN
JULIE BORNEMAN
JULIE PARKER
JULIE WARD
JUNTING CHEN
JYOTI MAHAJAN
KAM HO HO
KAMALJIT KAUR
KAMANI HABARAKADA
KARLEE COLES
KATHELEN CARRICK
KATRINA GREEN
KAUSHIKABAHEN JOSHI
KHADIJEH AJORLOU
KIM HIAH
KIRAN ZAIDI
KRISTEN TOBIAS
KRUPA VACHHANI
KRUPALI PATEL
KUMUDINI P KURUKULASURIYA
KYLIE CLAY
KYLIE GRAETZ
KYLIE JACKA
KYLIE THOMPSON
KYLIE WILLOX
LACHHMI UPADHYAY
LAHITHA PARTHIPAN
LALA TANG
LAURA SANCHEZ
LEAH CLARK
LEANNE ALTHAUS
LILIANA CULOSI
LINDA KATHELEN YANNER
LOAN NGUYEN
LOUISA BOULOS
LOUISE SHAW
LUBNA RAMEEZ
LUCY MOFFAT
LUZ MARIA HOYOS
MADHU CHAUHAN
MAHNOOSH KHAYAMIM
MAHWISH REHAN
MANJEET KAUR
MANJINDER KAUR
MANJIT KAUR
MANJULA KOMERELLI
MARIA TODINO
MARLENE TINGLEY
MARTHA SMITH
MAVIS JANSZ
MEGAN DUNKS
MEHABEN BARAIYA
MELANIE QUINN

MELISSA HAIGH
MICHELLE ATHERTON
MICHELLE OELLERMANN
MICHELLE RUNDELL
MINA NASSIRI
MONIKA SHARMA
MUNAGAMAGE GAYANI
ERANGA MUNASINGHE
MURIEL HEART
MYTHILY PURUSHOTHAMAN
NADEEM FIRDOUS SYEDA
NADIA KRIKUN
NADIA PANSOMBOON
NAOMI PARFITT
NARMADHA BATHIRAJAN
NATASHA BLACKWELL
NICOLE PRIEST
NIDHI TANDON
NILOOFAR BAKHSHAYESH
NIRALI DARSHAK DAVE
NISANSALA ATHAPATTU
NISHA BHAGAT
NITIKA GARG
NITIXA PANDYA
PARVATHI RATHINAVELU
PAULINE MORAN
PHILOMENA PETERS
PINA THAKKAR
PINNADUWAGE DE FONSEKA
POOJA GAJERA
PRABHJOT HUNDAL
PRASADI SENEVIRATNE
PRASEEJA THEETHU
PRIYASHANI GUNATHILAKA
RACHAEL SMITH
RACHEAL PEGG
RACHEL BLOYE
RACHEL MAPLEDSEN
RAJANIE DAHANAYAKE
RAJWINDER KAUR
RAMA SINGLA
RAMANDEEP KAUR
RAMANJEET KAUR SIDHU
RAMYA RAJKUMAR
RAVINDER KAUR
REBECCA KIRK
REBECCA PAINE
REBECCA ROSS
REBECCA VALENTINE
REGINA ZIMINA
REKHA NAYAR
RENAE DARGAN
RENAE WILLIAMS
RITIKA SHARMA
ROLY RUBIO
ROSANNE FERDINAND
RUPINDER KAUR
RUWANI EDIRISURIYA
RYOKO BEESLEY
SABA FARHAN
SABAHAT DANISH
SADAF UN NISA
SAIRA MAJID
SAMANTHA MOORE
SAMIRA AFTAB
SANDEEP KAUR
SANDEEP KAUR
SANDEEP KAUR SANDHU
SANDHYA MALLIKARACHCHI
SANDRA SANDERSON
SANGITA SHAH
SAPNA THAKUR
SARAH BEVIS
SARAH MILES
SASIREKHA ARUMALLA
SAU THI DAO
SHAHANA KHATOON
SHAMANPREET KAUR
SHANNON CADEL
SHARIE BIRCH
SHARMILA MUTHUKUMAR
SHARON LATTER
SHASIREKHA NAGIAH
SHAZIA MEMON
SHEHANI HEWAGE
SHERIDAN CHANDLER
SHILPA BADAKANAHALLI

SHUMAILA NOSHEEN
SIDRA SHABBI
SIEW WEI CHAN
SMITA BIDRE
SONIA BANSAL
SOPHIA MILLER
SUGIRTHAVANY RAVINDRAN
SULEKHA RANI
SUONG TRUONG
SUREKA HEERALUGE
SUSAN EGAN
SUSAN FORTE
SUZANNE MCROSTIE
TANIA LOCKE

THAO THANH NGUYEN
THARANGA KELANIYAGE
TRACY LEANNE LECHTE
TRANG NGUYEN
TRUDY BAUZON
TRUPTI NAGAR
UDITHA DASSANAYAKE
ULFAT ABBAS
UMA VANZRE RAMAMURTHY
UMAMAHESWARI
VELMURUGAN
VANAJA CHENNA
VANESSA CHANNA
VEENA SHARMA
VENOOS FATTAHI MEHRANFAR
VICTORIA WARD
VINITA SONI
VIOLETA BECIC
VYVETTE MACKELVIE
WAI YING CHOI
WENDY WHELAN
WENDY WILSON
WENYANG WU
YAN LI
YATTOWILA NILANTHI WITHANA
ZEENATH FATHIMA
SINGHAWANSA
ZENADA TERNOLA
ZIBA KAMYAB HESARI

WA

(RMK) LAKSHMI KANCHANA
KUMARI KATULANDA
ADELINA KERSTING
ADRIANA PINZON
ADRIENNE SCADDAN
AFAF ALI
AINSLEE HODGE
AIXA ALOHA LOYOLA
VALDERRAMA DE RUSS
ALAIZZA DUMLAO
ALICIA WINN
ALISON COUSINS
ALLANA WIGNALL
ALONA DABUAN
ALPHA SHAH
ALPABEN AGHARA
AMANDA BROWNLIE
AMANDA SARGENT
AMENEH MOZDOR KOHANJANI
AMY HODSON
AMY HYLAND
AMY KRESTENSEN
AMY LAWRENCE

AMY MELLOWS
ANASTASIA ASAMOAH
ANDREA FOX
ANDREA ROBERTS
ANGELINA HAECKER
ANNE FERNANDO
ANNE LOUISE SIDERIS
ANSHU SHARMA
APARNA ANUGRAH
APRIL PATERSON
ASHA ABDI
ASHWINDER KAUR
AURA ANSART
BATOOOL ABDALZAHRA SALMAN
ALRADY
BEGUM SHAMSUN NAHER
BEVERLEY BATHURST
BEVERLY JEAN SUNKAR
BHAVJIT KAUR

BHAVNEET KAUR
BLAIR TREDWELL
BRENDA KRETSCHMER
CAITLIN CLARKSON
CARLY JOCHIMSEN
CARMELA VERZINI
CAROLINE BOLT
CAROLINE BOOCOCK
CAROLINE KAIN
CAROLYN NORMAN
CASSANDRA ALLIA-BLAKERS
CASSANDRA DENNISON
CASSANDRA MILLINGTON
CATHARINA WILLEY
CHANDER KALA CHHABA
CHANTELLE DIGBY
CHANTELLE ROGERS
CHARLOTTE NEAME
CHARMAINE DAWSON
CHERIE MILLER
CHERRIE TURLAND
CHERYLE HARDING
CHEVONNE SENZIO
CHRISTINE ADAMS
CHRISTINE JOY REEVES
CINDY HUET
CLAIRE FOGARTY-DODD
CLAIRE SHAW
CLARE LONEY
COLLEEN FAYE CHINNERY
COMFORT BROWN
CORNELIA EWALD
DANICA HARRISON
DANIELLE HARBEN
DAWN GREEN
DAWN KEMPTON
DEANNE YATES
DHARMISHTHA RABADIYA
DIANNE WATT
DIMPLE ARORA
DIVYA SHARMA
DYAN TRELOAR
ELIZABETH STANGER
ELIZABETH THOMPSON
ELSPETH SMITH
EMMA FOX
EMMA GIBBS
FIONA KEEN
FRANCES SVILICICH
GABRIELLA HELEN NGUYEN
GARY CRIBB
GEETHAMMA RANGANNA
GEORGIA MCCULLAGH
GEORGIE URKKO
GERALDINE MARIE BUCKTROUT

GURMEET KAUR
HALLIKI AASMAE
HARPREET DANG
HARPREET KAUR
HARSHIDA KHETIA
HEIDI GRIFFIN
HELENA VAN NIEKERK
HENI KHAMBHATI
HOI TSE
HOLLY THOMAS
HONOURINE D'SYLA
HYEJIN KANG
HYEYON JUNG
JACQUELIN SIMS
JALPA SATHAVARA
JAN LENG
JASMEET KAUR
JASMINE MAWDSLEY
JAYASHREE S KOLLI
JENNIENLY ACUNA
JESSICA O'CONNOR
JESSICA RETALLACK
JESSICA WARE
JEYALETHUMI VELOO
JOANNE HART
JOANNE WOODING
JODIE NORTH
JONENE HARRAP
JOSEPHINE DUMLAO
JOSEPHINE JAGURU
JOSEPHINE MONACO
JUDY BYRNE
JULEANNE GROCOCK
JULIE FORD
JULIE LEWIS
JULIE SMITH
JULIETA KILLIAN
JUNE HANNAM
KAREN BEAL
KAREN FERRARIS
KATRINA TRAVIA
KAVITA SALIMATH
KELLIE WALSH
KELLY DE MILLON
KELLY MONAGHAN
KELLY VICKERS
KERI MCGUINNESS
KERRYANNE WYDRA
KESHIA HOOD
KIRSTY PRESTON
KYLIE STRELLEY
LALITA AGARWALLA
LARA TIBBS
LARISSA MAY
LEANNE DOWSETT
LILI XU
LILIK SETYAWATI
LINDSEY NUNN
LISA BENNETT
LISA GREEN
LOO YEE ANG
LORNA SELIMAN
LUCIEL KRUGER
LYDIA TOWNEND
LYNDA CARRICK
MADIANNE HYNES
MANGALEE MANUVEL
PEIRISLAGE
MARGARET YOKWE
MARGOT RAMSAY
MARIA BARNES
MARIA DE LUCA SAROBE
MARIE DESIREE CHANTAL
APPELBE
MARYKA DE BEER
MEGAN JONES
MEI IP
MELISSA KOOMES
MELLISSA KEELER
MENAI MILTON
MEREDITH GARDNER
MI SEON PARK
MICHELLE GIRLING
MICHELLE STANTON
MINI SOI
MOIRA ROMINA INSAURRALDE
MONIQUE DANGERFIELD
NAGALAKSHMI THARMARAJAN
NANDANI NAWARATHNA
NAOMI GORMAN
NARELLE COOPER
NARELLE THOMAS
NATALIE WHINCUP
NATALIE WILKINS

NAUSHIBA SYEDA
NEETA RASKAR
NEHA PATEL
NICOLE DREJA
NICOLE FAIRALL
NICOLE GORMAN
NIKKI HANLEY
NIMISHABEN AJAYKUMAR
PATEL
NIPONA FERDOUS
NUALA CAROLAN
OLGA PAGE
PAIGE ROWE
PARMINDER KAUR
PARMJIT KAUR GILL
PATCHAREE BOONSONG
PATRICIA BOYD
PATRICIA VALLEJOS
PAULA WHITTINGTON
PAULA-MARIE DAWSON
PRAGHABAHEN PATEL
PRAGNA MANDALIA
PREETHIKA SHETTIGAR
PUJA GAUTAM
RAJNI RAJNI
REBECCA BEATTIE
REBECCA SINGH
RIKA TERBLANCHE
ROSELYN LAWRENCE
ROSLYN HUMBLE
RUBAN DSILVA
RUCHI MALHOTRA
SALLY-MAE DOWNEY
SAMANTHA WARNES
SANGEETA KALYAN
SAVITA KUMAR
SEEMA BASAVARAJAIAH
SEONGGYEONG CHAE
SERUWAIA DAVETANIVALU
SHAHABANO AHMAD ALI
SHARON GOODMAN
SHASHIKALA RAJANNA
SHELBY MCKERNAN
SHERRY MARTIN
SHERYL EHLERS
SHILA DATTA
SHWETA SHANBHAG
SHWETHA GOWDRU KALLAPPA
SIERRA BATHURST
SKYE HOGAN
SNEZANA TODOROVIC
SOHA KHDHAYER
SONA HUPKOVA
SONIA KALYAN
SONIA SHARMA
SONIA VIKAS
SOPHIE GRIFFIN
SRI MORGAN
STACEY ANN GALLAGHER
SUHANAITA KAMARDIN
SUKHJINDER KAUR HEHAR
SUMYA ASLAM
SUSAN STRACHAN
SUSANA PEELE
SUZANNE O'TOOLE
TALISSA MEEHAN
TAMARA ASLETT
TAMATHA JACKA
TANAKA GEHLHAAR
TANIA HAZELDINE
TANYA LEE PHILLIPS
TANYA TODT
TANZIA ZAMAN
TARYN KEENE
TEGWEN JONES
TERESSA O'NEIL
TIFFANY BAILLIE
TRACEY BURNS
TRACEY SALSAMAN
TRACEY SMITH
TRACEY WALLEY
TRACY BODIN
TRACY FOWLIE-CROCKER
URMILA PRAJAPRATI
VANDANA SHARMA
VICTORIA SHIELDS
VICTORIA ZEPNICK
VIMLA PATEL
WARUNI WIJESINGHA
WEI WANG
WEI WU
WENDY NICHOLAS
YUE CHEN
ZAHRA AZAMI

“Our educator is kind, patient and caring with all the children in her care. She supports my daughter in every aspect of her growing, from her mind to her heart.”

COORDINATOR NOMINEES

ACT

LINDA WHITE
MAYLYN CAPE
THERESA ROBERTS

NSW

ADAM MUSA
ALISHA O'BRIEN
ALIX BURGESS
AMANY MIKHAIL
ANGELA RING
ANITA ELLIOT
ASIFA TABASSAM
BRENDA HEAD
BROOKE NOAKE
CAROLINE TUNNICLIFF
CHARMAINE BLACKETT
CHARMAINE SANCHEZ
CHRISTIE BELLINGER
CORINNE TIFFIN
DALENE EADIE
DARLENE MUSGROVE
DEANNE BURR
DEBRA MAGIN
DISHA PATEL
EMILY ZELL
EMMA LOW
GEMMA JONES
HEYAME NAHLE
HYUN JIN JUN
JACLYN ABOU ZEID
JACLYN NADER
JANESE MCGOWN
JEMMA JESIOLOWSKI
JENELLE YCAS
JENNIFER HOOPER
JESSICA BOURKE
JOANNE CLARK
JUAN HONG LI
JULIE PARNHAM
JUN LEE

KAITY BEELLEN-SMITH
KARA ADAMS
KEIRA SELLARS-FAITHFULL
KERRIE CHADBURN
KERRY NOVOKOVIC
KIM HARTE
KIRSTY ROBACH
KRISTINE ELDRIDGE
KRISTY BANNISTER
KRISTY ELKS
KYLIE BERRY
KYLIE VISINTIN
LAILA ABDIRAHMAN
LARA FARAH
LINDA BANNAN
LISA BAKER
LISA STATHAKIS
LISA SUSZEK
MALISSA GAYDON
MARIA JAMES
MARIE BROADBENT
MARTINA HRIBAR
MEGAN PETROLO
MELISSA BENSON
MIA DANIELS
MIAE PARK
MICHELLE CAPEWELL
MIRANDA ALBANESE
MONIQUE MERRETT
NAMAN KAUR
PING ZANG
RENEE LONG
RODA ABDIRAHMAN
RODA ISMAIL
RUTH MCGUIRE
SAMANTHA SHEPHERD
SAMIHA MOHAMMED
SARMIN NAHER SARMIN
SI'I WARBIN
SONIA VICARIO
TAMARA LAMPE
THI HONG DUONG PHAM
TRACY GOSSON

VERONICA ASSAF
VICTORIA FARROW
WENDY FENN

QLD

ADAIR MACGREGOR
ALICIA CAMAGE
AMY PACE
APRIL EATON
BRIANA SIMPSON
CARLA WILKINSON
CAROLYN BRUNKER
CATHIE HEALY
CHRISTINA LEE
DONNA O'SHEA
ELIZABETH BISSHOP
EMMA HICKEY
FRANCES WRIGHT
HEATHER HAYES
JESSICA HUNOLD
JOANNE YOUNG
JULIAN GAFFNEY
KAREN COMPTON
KARLEIGH SOPPA
KARREN THORPE
KATE MCNEILL
KATRINA BRYANT
KAY BRADDOCK
KELLIE MARSDEN
KELLY MILLS
KIRSTEN HORNER
KYLIE SMITH
LINDA CLAXTON
LOUISA MOLONEY
LOUISE MCBURNIE
MANDY DARLOW
MARIANNE TROIANI
MICHELLE GLOWKA
MIRANDA HOWE
NICOLE ARMSTRONG
PILULA JIM BONE
RACHAEL BLAKE

RACHAEL OLSZEWSKI
RACHANA BULSARA
RACHEL MOFFATT
RACHELLE PORTCH
RACHELLE SMITH
RICKY FAZLDEEN
SACHA SHEEHY
SANCHITA KUNDU
SHARON RICHARDS
SHARYN FLYNN
TRACEY GALVIN
TRACEY HOLDEN
TRUDI JOLLIFFE
VICTORIA EDMOND
VICTORIA EVEREST
VIV OTT
YVONNE STEWART
ZEE WISHART

SA

CARLIE WOODS
CARLY BARWICK
CASSANDRA ALDERSON
DEMEZA SQUIRES
HANNAH GRIFFITHS
HEIDI MORRIS
ISABEL FUENTES
LISA FRICK
MARILYN STONE
NAOMI ROBERTSON
RENEE NEVILLE
ROCHELLE NAGEL
SAMANTHA VAN BAAR
SARAH RAYMOND
SERENA BOURNE
TRACY CRIPPS

TAS

CAITLIN HEYWARD
CHANTELLE CONRADES

GEORGIA WALTERS
NATALIA MCNALLY
SAMANTHA GUY

VIC

ALISON SHARPE
AMBER ZAHID
ANN MARIE CASPANELLO
CANDICE RANDALL
CAROLYNNE LE PAGE
CHERYL BODO
CLAIRE VINICOMBE
DONNA BIBBY
FRANCES MASTROIANNI
FRIEDA AUSTIN
FRIEDA EUSTACE
GURLEEN BINEPAL
GURNEIL BINPAL
HA DAO
HUMA EHSAN
IFFATH NOUSHIN
ISABEL SCOLARO
JEN COLLINS
JO GARNER
JULIE METSELAAR
KATHI HEWITSON
LAURA HEWITSON
LINA LUTA
MARITA WILSON
PETA HOLE
REBECCA FOSTER
REENA CHARLES
RITU REDDY SAMA
ROXANNE CARUANA
RUMALISA FAHAD
SAM TILDESLEY
SAMANTHA LAMBERT
TAMARRA TIE
TELGARATI SUBRAMANYAM
UDYANI GAJAMANGE

WA

ABBY THORPE
ADEN ABDI
BROOKE CLARKE
BROOKE NUGENT
CINDY WALSH
DEANNA BANTUM
DEBBIE O'DRISCOLL
ELSIE MAY
ERIN KEENAN
EUNHA LEE
HAMPARBHA SHARMA
HELEN MACBETH
HELEN MILES
HIRAL KANERIA
HITASHA JESWANI
IRENE SOLINO
JAC CONDREN
JO GEORGIU
JOANNE GEORGIU
KARINA CLARK
KATIE WAUDBY
LEA MAJOR
LOUELLA PYKE
MATHEUS GARDE
MELISSA JONES
MELISSA MCALEENAN
MUGDHA THAPAR
NAOMI BARBOUR
NEETU CHOPRA
REENA SHAH
RINA SHAH
SAMALA DOVER
SAMANTHA FOLAN
SAMANTHA SMEDLEY
SARAH BAYLISS HIGGINS
SHARLENE LIDDELOW
SHARON PALUMBO
TAMMY BESWICK
TONYA MORRISEY

SERVICE NOMINEES

ACT

COMMUNITIES@WORK FAMILY DAY CARE AND
'IN-HOME CARE
GENESIS FAMILY DAY CARE SERVICES

NSW

24/7 FAMILY DAY CARE
ACE FAMILY DAY CARE
ALIF FAMILY DAY CARE
ALL AREAS FAMILY DAY CARE
ALPHA FAMILY DAYCARE
ARMIDALE AND DISTRICT FAMILY DAY CARE
AROUND THE CLOCK FAMILY DAY CARE
ARTARMON FAMILY DAY CARE
AUSSCOT FAMILY DAY CARE
BALLINA-BYRON FAMILY DAY CARE
BARAKAT FAMILY DAY CARE
BAULKHAM HILLS FAMILY DAY CARE
BEGA VALLEY FAMILY DAY CARE
CABONNE FAMILY DAY CARE
CAMPBELLTOWN FAMILY DAY CARE
CASS FAMILY DAY CARE
CCA FAMILY DAY CARE
CHASING RAINBOWS FAMILY DAY CARE
COASTWIDE FAMILY DAY CARE
COFFS HARBOUR & DISTRICT FAMILY DAY CARE
SCHEME
COLLECTIVE FAMILY DAY CARE
COWRA FAMILY DAY CARE
EARLY YEARS CARE
FIVE STAR FAMILY DAY CARE
GABRIEL'S FAMILY DAY CARE
GOULBURN FAMILY DAY CARE
GREAT WESTERN FAMILY DAY CARE
GREATER HUME CHILDREN SERVICES

GUNNDAH FAMILY DAY CARE
ILLAWARRA FAMILY DAY CARE
INNER WEST FAMILY DAY CARE
INTEREACH FAMILY DAY CARE
JUST KIDS FAMILY DAY CARE SCHEME
KIDDIEWINK FAMILY DAY CARE
LITTLE STAR FDC SCHEME
MAITLAND FAMILY DAY CARE SCHEME
MID COAST FAMILY DAY CARE
MY HOME YOUR HOME FAMILY DAY CARE
NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL FAMILY DAY CARE
NORTHERN ILLAWARRA FAMILY DAY CARE SCHEME
POLARIS FAMILY DAY CARE
QUEANBEYAN-PALERANG FAMILY DAY CARE
THRIVE KIDS FAMILY DAY CARE
TWINKLE FAMILY DAYCARE

QLD

AMANA KIDS FAMILY DAY CARE
BEAUCARE FAMILY DAY CARE
BEENLEIGH FAMILY DAY CARE
BOONAH & DISTRICT FAMILY DAY CARE
BOWEN/COLLINSVILLE FAMILY DAY CARE SCHEME
BRISBANE HARMONY FAMILY DAY CARE
BUSY BUTTERFLIES EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICE
CARINBUNDI KIDS FAMILY DAY CARE
CHOICES FAMILY DAY CARE
EMPOWERED FAMILY DAY CARE SERVICE
EXCELLENCE IN CARE FAMILY DAY CARE
FLAMINGO FAMILY DAY CARE
FRASER COAST FAMILY DAY CARE
HATCHLING HOUSE FAMILY DAY CARE
HOLISTIC APPROACH FAMILY DAY CARE SCHEME
KANDA FAMILY DAY CARE
KATH DICKSON FAMILY DAY CARE - EAST COAST
HOME BASED SERVICES

KATH DICKSON FAMILY DAY CARE
METROPOLITAN HBS
KIDS AT HOME FAMILY DAY CARE
MINI MIRACLES FAMILY DAY CARE
NORTH QLD FAMILY DAY CARE
RAINBOW BRIDGE FAMILY DAY CARE
TOWNSVILLE FAMILY DAYCARE
UNITING FAMILY DAY CARE BRAMBLE BAY
UNITING FAMILY DAY CARE GYMPIE
WE BELONG FAMILY DAY CARE
WHITSUNDAY SHIRE FAMILY DAY CARE SCHEME

SA

CENTRAL METRO FAMILY DAY CARE SCHEME
FOUNDATIONS FAMILY DAY CARE
HILLS MURRAYLANDS FAMILY DAY CARE SCHEME
HOLISTIC APPROACH FAMILY DAY CARE SCHEME

TAS

CLARENCE FAMILY DAY CARE SCHEME
FAMILY DAY CARE TASMANIA

VIC

ALL KIDS FAMILY DAY CARE
BAW BAW SHIRE FAMILY DAY CARE
BENDIGO FAMILY DAY CARE
BRIGHT SUN FAMILY DAY CARE
CHEEKY PANDAS FAMILY DAYCARE
CITY OF KINGSTON FAMILY DAY CARE
COLAC OTWAY SHIRE FAMILY DAY CARE SCHEME
DANDENONG FAMILY DAY CARE
FIRST IDEA FAMILY DAY CARE SERVICES
FOUNDATIONS FAMILY DAY CARE
GREATER DANDENONG FAMILY DAY CARE SCHEME

HAPPY CAMPERS FAMILY DAY CARE
HOLISTIC APPROACH FAMILY DAY CARE SCHEME
IGNITE MINDS FAMILY DAY CARE
INSPIRED FAMILY DAY CARE
KIDS INDIVIDUAL DAYCARE SOLUTIONS
LITTLE HEAVEN FDCS
LITTLE TINKERS FAMILY DAY CARE
MT ALEXANDER FAMILY DAY CARE
RAINBOW DREAMS FAMILY DAY CARE
UNITING FAMILY DAY CARE - GIPPSLAND
V.I.P. FAMILY DAY CARE
WYNDHAM EARLY LEARNING FAMILY DAY CARE

WA

ALPHA FAMILY DAY CARE SERVICES
AUSSIE KIDZ FAMILY DAY CARE
CITY OF COCKBURN FAMILY DAY CARE
COMMUNITY VISION FAMILY DAY CARE SERVICE
CONNECTIONS FAMILY DAY CARE
ELITE FAMILY DAY CARE
EXCELL ACADEMY
GARDEN PLAY FAMILY DAY CARE SERVICE
KIDZ PLANET FAMILY DAY CARE
KOOLANGA FAMILY DAY CARE SERVICE
NATURE ALLIANCE FAMILY DAY CARE SERVICE
NECTAR FAMILY DAY CARE SERVICE
NURTURE CHILDCARE AND EDUCATION SERVICES
RIGHTWAY LEARNING FAMILY DAY CARE
WANSLEA REGIONAL FAMILY DAY CARE
WHITE GUM FAMILY DAY CARE SERVICE
WILLI WAG TAILS FAMILY DAY CARE SERVICES

Loose Parts Play

Building Imagination, Independence, and Connection

By Marie Armstrong, Director, Early Years Care

Several years ago, I set out to introduce family day care educators to something a little unconventional: large loose parts play through my Magic Zippy Van.

I didn't show up with polished playground equipment or carefully curated 'provocations'. Instead, I arrived with what looked like a van full of junk - quirky discarded items, recycled bits, random odds and ends, maybe a few mannequins.

And yes, a lot came straight from the local tip! But to me, it was treasure: a collection of opportunity, imagination, and infinite possibilities.

By providing open-ended materials, our children are encouraged to think creatively, problem-solve, and direct their own learning.

Why Loose Parts Matter

Loose parts play is about freedom. Freedom to imagine, to build, to discover.

Loose parts are everyday materials - natural or synthetic - that children use in limitless ways. From bottle caps to fabric scraps, sticks to tyres, each object invites exploration without rules, batteries, or fixed outcomes.

A plastic frog can only ever be a frog. However, a scrap of luscious green velvet might become a frog, a hat, a leaf - or even dinosaur wings. Limitless possibilities, born from a child's imagination.

As Richard Louv said: "A 'loose parts' toy is open-ended; children may use it in many ways and combine it with other loose parts through imagination and creativity."

A Resourceful Community

Sourcing materials is a great way to involve families and the wider community. When asking for donations, show examples - many people can't immediately see the potential in everyday objects.

Some ideas to start small loose parts play include:

- Bottle tops
- Fabric scraps
- Cardboard tubes
- Plastic containers
- Rocks, shells, and crystals
- Buttons, zippers



Encourage children to create their own wish lists - their ideas will surprise you. Acknowledging their choices builds confidence and autonomy.

The way we present materials matters. If you toss items on a table, children will treat them that way too. But if you arrange screws and buttons in colour order, in beautiful baskets, they become objects of beauty.

Invite children to play and role model respect - whether it's a costly toy or a scrap of foam. Children mirror us. If we throw broken toys away without pause, we teach disposability.



Small loose parts can provide opportunities to create sustainable art - pictures, sculptures, cities, or intricate patterns captured through photos. Mixing crystals, leaves, buttons, and blocks adds sensory richness and contrast. Transient art should have a place in every early childhood program. We borrow, create, and then return with gratitude.

Sourcing tips:

- Op shops and charity stores
- Garage sales and markets
- Construction sites (with permission)
- Tradies - offcuts, pipes, scrap wood
- Beachcombing and bushwalks
- Social media marketplaces
- Local business donations



Stay open-minded and plan-free when hunting. Having a fixed goal can unintentionally make play work.

Including Babies in Loose Parts Play

Loose parts play isn't just for older children - babies are active participants. Even before they're mobile, babies learn by watching and listening. Including them nurtures empathy and responsibility in older children.

When babies begin to move, involve the older children.

Ask: "What can we change to keep the babies safe?" or "How can we include our young friends in our play?"

You'll be surprised how thoughtful their responses are. Set up a mat during loose parts play so babies can explore nearby and still observe the hustle and bustle of play.

Safe materials for babies include:

- Soft balls
- Fabric scraps
- Felt strips
- Plastic cups
- Cake trays and wooden utensils
- Tubes and stackable pieces
- Smooth, short pipes

These open-ended items allow for deep, meaningful exploration. Children find joy and discovery in the simplest objects.

Loose Parts as Emotional and Social Tools

Loose parts also support **emotional expression and connection**.

One day, after hearing news reports of a missing child, a group built an elaborate grave site from loose parts. Through building and storytelling, they processed sadness, fear, and hope - conversations that wouldn't have surfaced in structured play.

It was confronting - but showed the depth of loose parts play.

On another day, educators nervously watched children stack milk crates to stand on. The children worked it out instinctively. They knew how many they could confidently stack before the crates fell over. They know their own limits - and if they don't yet, they will in time. We need to allow this process to happen.

Loose parts offer a language beyond words. They let children sit with discomfort, explore big feelings, and express them authentically.

Outdoor Loose Parts Play

While small loose parts are magical indoors, outdoor play supercharges possibilities.

Larger materials like tyres, crates, ropes, and planks invite children to build, create, blend natural and man-made elements and imagine.

Nature becomes a co-creator - sticks, feathers, leaves and rocks all play a role.

I've seen preschoolers build vehicles or obstacle courses using tyres and planks - with no instructions, no adult interference, just pure imagination.

Embracing Risk and Building Resilience

Loose parts naturally invite **real, manageable risk**.

Time after time, children show sound judgement.

They assess, adapt, and succeed - without adults stepping in.

Real risk builds autonomy, resilience, and competence. It embeds the Early Years Learning Framework without force, including Learning Outcome 3.2: Children take increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing.

When we trust them, children show us what they're capable of.



The Gift of Loose Parts Play

Loose parts play isn't "just" an activity - it's a *philosophy*, a **practice**, and a **journey**.

It recognises children as creative, capable learners. It welcomes the mess, the meaning, and the magic. It celebrates failure as learning and gives space for real growth.

Through loose parts, children:

- Build identity
- Strengthen social bonds
- Develop physical and cognitive skills
- Express complex emotions
- Lead, innovate, and create
- Make heartfelt art

Loose parts offer more than play. They offer children the tools to imagine, explore, solve, adapt - and most importantly, to **become**.

And there is no greater gift we can give the children we educate, care for, and advocate for.



Celebrating 200 years of family day care experience

Recently the City of Kingston Family Day Care in Mentone Victoria celebrated several of their educators reaching significant milestones of service. With more than two hundred years of combined experience, we asked each educator to share their knowledge with the wider family day care community, by answering one of three questions.



Can you share a moment when you realised the difference you made in a child's or family's life?

Rathna Gurusinghe

37 years of service (30 at Kingston Council, 7 at other local Councils)

Running a family day care business has been a rewarding commitment for over 30 years, with countless children passing through my door. Each one has been unique, making it hard to single out a memorable moment. I have received calls from parents about their child's achievements, such as primary school awards or high schoolers thanking me for laying a solid foundation.

One moment I remember was when a little boy of about three years with developmental challenges, (he was walking with his knees and not standing up) took his first steps at my family day care after just two weeks. He was observing the other children, and he began to copy them with my support. It was not a miracle but a natural process in the right environment.

Jana Rapoport

10 years of service

A two-year-old child began attending my care. They would arrive in the mornings and present



with challenging behaviour. This was a traumatising routine for all parties involved. Little by little, day by day, I managed to earn the child's trust to the point where this behaviour stopped. They started enjoying attending care, learning lots, and interacting with the other children. On many occasions, the child's parents expressed their gratitude for managing to turn the situation around. No parent enjoys leaving their child in care when the transition is unsettling. The relief and gratitude exhibited by the parents, and seeing the child thriving, made me feel like I made a huge difference in their lives.

Meg Littler

15 years of service

Last week Master Three commenced three-year-old kinder (preschool). His parents took a photo of him holding a small chalkboard recognising the importance of the day. Along with the date and brief details about him was his answer to the question "I really love..." He had said "Grug" (a book series we read frequently) and "going to Meg's". This is incredibly significant because he finds it hard to separate from his parents each morning when arriving.

What's one piece of advice, tool, habit or mindset you wish you had when you started and how has it been essential to the success of your family day care?



Elaine Robinson

30 years of service

One piece of advice that a presenter told a group of educators at a meeting many years ago was to always take at least four weeks leave each year.

Since starting family day care, I took minimal time off as some families always needed care. I found myself burning out and resenting working, so this piece of advice was a refreshing wake up call. Since then, I have scheduled holidays that suit me.

I give the families plenty of notice and no one minds having to either take time off work or rely on family while I'm away. I aim to take the four weeks in two blocks and try to have some regular weekends away to recharge. I feel this is great work-life balance.

Barb Hurd

45 years of service

When I first started I didn't think of my job as a business, and I had no idea what I was doing. My advice



Barb

to anyone thinking of running a family day care business is to have a good accountant, gather and find out as much information as you can about running a small business, talk to other educators and staff, take advantage of resources and training and support available to you and just keep learning.



Progma

Progma Das 10 years of service

When I first started my family day care I was nervous about making mistakes or feeling like I wasn't "good enough" at certain aspects of child care. Over time, I realised that growth comes from being open to learning new things and adapting to challenges as they come.

This mindset has been key, especially when it comes to working with children who are all unique in their needs, learning styles, and emotional development. Whether it's learning more about child development, researching new activities to engage the kids, or finding better ways to communicate with parents, the willingness to adapt and continuously improve

has helped me create a nurturing and thriving environment.

Having tools and resources, like a network of other family day care providers, professional development courses, or simply reading up on parenting strategies, have really helped me grow both as an educator and a business owner.



Elena

You've been in family day care for many years, what's kept you inspired?

Elena Poloz 20 years of service

When I started my family day care, my older daughter was six years old, and my younger daughter was just six months old. Throughout their school years, it was a wonderful opportunity for me to spend as much time as possible with my children, do something I love, and work at the same time. For several years, this was my primary motivation.

By the time my children grew up, family day care had become an integral part of my life. I still happily welcome new children, watch them grow, and eventually go to school. New children continue to come, and this cycle has been ongoing for the past 20 years. The joy of seeing children develop, learning and knowing I'm making a positive impact on their lives has been my continuous inspiration.

Vany Ravindran 20 years of service

Over the years, I have loved watching children grow from



Vany

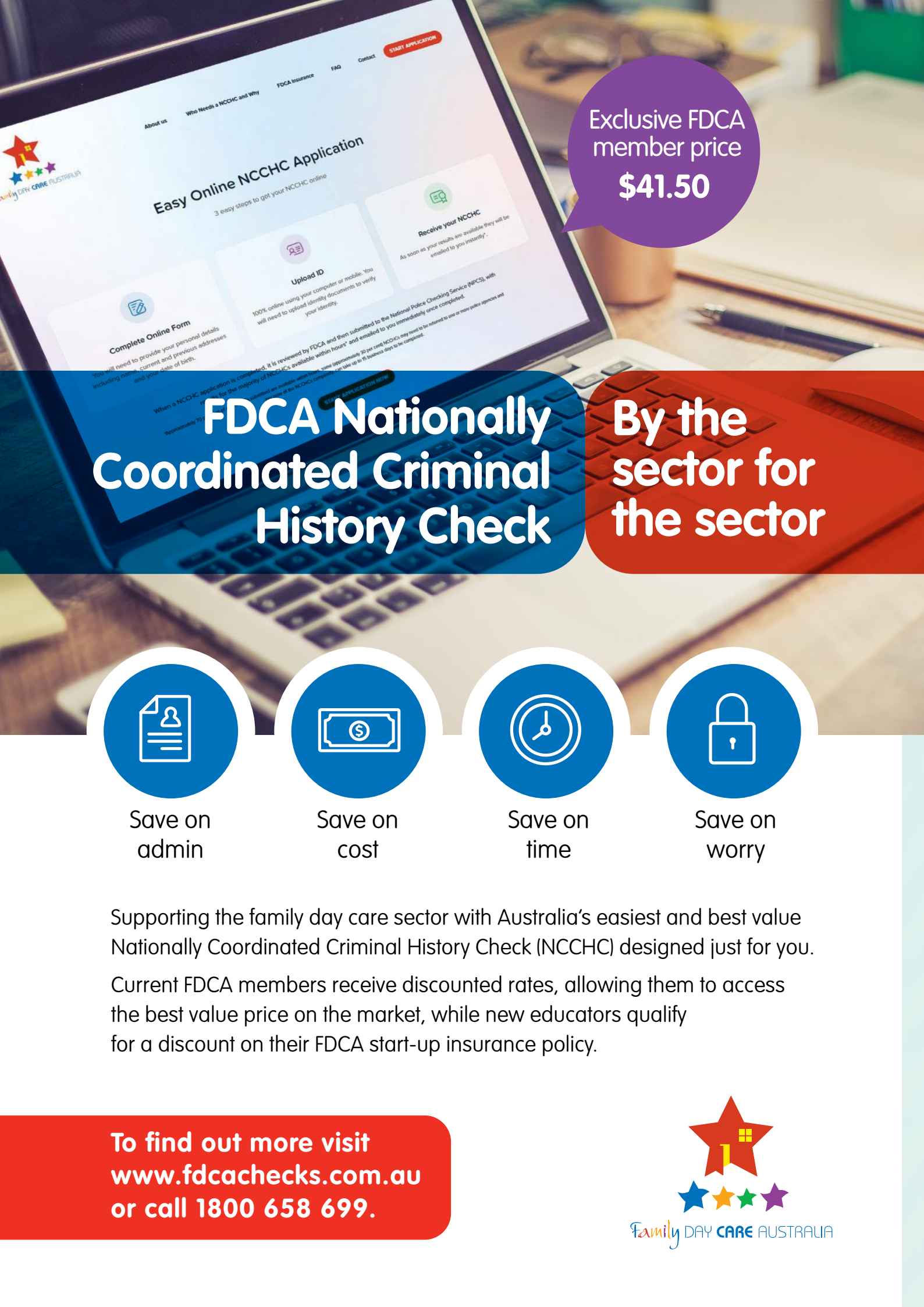
babies to school-age kids, seeing their smiles, laughter, and excitement as they learn new things. It makes me happy to help them build confidence, be kind, and learn important life skills. Teaching them about different cultures and how to care for the world is also important to me. I feel proud knowing that parents trust me to keep their children safe and happy. Seeing a child reach a new milestone, hearing them say "I love you" or "I miss you," and knowing families want me to care for their loved ones means so much. It shows that what I do makes a difference. Being part of their journey is more than just a job - it is a special and meaningful role in their lives, and I feel lucky to do it.



Nadia

Nadia Krikun 20 years of service

It is simple, and doesn't need to be put in 100 words, but three words. Love for children.



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FDCA 2025 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

MELB2025

There is just over three months remaining until the FDCA 2025 National Conference!

The FDCA 2025 National Conference promises to have something for everyone within the family day care sector. Whatever your role, passion or area of interest, we're confident the FDCA 2025 National Conference program will offer something that will inspire and engage you!

Tickets are strictly limited, so to secure your ticket for the FDCA 2025 National Conference visit the conference website.

SECURE YOUR TICKET HERE

www.familydaycare.com.au/2025conference

Educator Tickets Subsidised

We're excited to share that FDCA will be offering a \$50 subsidy for Educators who purchase a ticket!

In addition to offering a wide range of professional learning opportunities, the FDCA 2025 National Conference will provide a meaningful platform for connection and collaboration. In the family day care setting, it can often be challenging to engage with fellow educators and service staff, making events like this even more valuable.

Educators can use the code 'FDC50' to access a \$50 discount when purchasing [tickets](#).

Final Program Available

The FDCA 2025 National Conference provides delegates with a wide variety of workshops to choose from. These interactive sessions will cover a range of different topics that appeal to all those within the family day care and early childhood education and care sector.

Delegates will have the opportunity to choose from 20 workshops, each designed to meet the unique needs of family day care. Whatever your passion or area of interest, we're confident the FDCA 2025 National Conference program will offer something that will excite and captivate you.

The final program can be found [here](#).

All-Star Keynote Lineup!

If you're looking to be inspired, the FDCA 2025 National Conference will be the place to be, with an all-star keynote speaker lineup that promises to deliver!

We will kick off day one of the conference on Friday with Internationally acclaimed New Zealand neuroscience educator Nathan Wallis delivering a morning keynote. Nathan will be back Friday afternoon for a plenary workshop.

To wrap up day one Meena Singh, Acting Principal Commissioner & Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People in Victoria, will address delegates after an information packed day.

On Saturday morning, dual Olympian, four-time Commonwealth Champion and two-time World Champion, Dr Jana Pittman will share her amazing story of perseverance which will then be followed in the afternoon by National Children's Commissioner Anne Hollonds, who will deliver the closing keynote address.



Nathan Wallis



Dr Jana Pittman



Anne Hollonds



Meena Singh

Full registration tickets to the FDCA 2025 National Conference are limited, to secure your ticket visit familydaycare.com.au/2025conference

New two-month payment available!

Pay for your ticket with two simple instalments.

You can access the **member-only instalment option** [here](#).

FDCA 2025

MELB2025

NATIONAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

THURSDAY 23 OCT 2025

TIME	REGISTRATION DESK	EXHIBITION HALL
14.30 - 17.30	Registrations	
18.00 - 20.00		Welcome Function

FRIDAY 24 OCT 2025

TIME	GRAND BALLROOM				
8.40 - 8.45	Housekeeping				
8.45 - 8.55	Welcome to Country				
8.55 - 9.05	CEO Welcome				
9.05 - 9.30	VIP Address				
9.30 - 10.30	Keynote Address - Nathan Wallis - Understand your Brain: The First 1,000 Days				
10.30 - 11.10	Morning Tea				
TIME	ROOM A	ROOM B	ROOM C	ROOM D	ROOM E
11.10 - 12.10	Sylvia Arotin, CEO & Founder, Guide and Grow How to Get Kids to Listen - The Power of Conscious Communication	Siobhan Kennedy-Costantini, Director, Science Minded The Science of Temperament and Emotion Regulation: Practical Tools for Fostering Self-Regulation and Understanding Diverse Behavioral Needs	Kerry Smith, Adjunct Research Fellow, Griffith University Engaging in Play - The Play Cycle Theory in Family Day Care Settings	Trish Osgood, Be You Consultant, Be You Supporting Leaders to Support Educators: Creating Responsive Approaches to Educator Wellbeing	Nicole Halton, Director & Lauren Jackson, National Children's Services Manager, Inspired EC Connect, Reflect, Embed: Our Journey of Exploring The Child Safe Standards and what they look like in Family Day Care
12.10 - 12.20	Short Break				
12.20 - 13.20	Laura Hewitson, Field Coordinator, Foundations Family Day Care Streamlining for Success: Making the Most of Technology and Automation in Family Day Care Management	Samantha Dellamarta, Facilitator & Olivia Brown, Facilitator, Safeguarding Training Australia To follow, or not to follow? Tips for applying professional boundaries in Family Day Care	Paula Pittam, Director of Family Day Care Programs, Department for Education South Australia, Jemma Henley, Inclusion Professional Team Leader & Uncle Tamaru, Aboriginal Consultant, Gowrie SA Walking alongside: Our relationship with Kauruanu Tamaru teaching us about Kaurua language and culture	Ben Mueller, Director & and Principal Accountant, FDC Tax Tax and Accounting for Educators	Australian Government Department of Education Workshop Title to be Confirmed
TIME	GRAND BALLROOM				
13.20 - 14.20	Lunch				
14.20 - 15.50	Plenary Workshop - Nathan Wallis - Engage Your Brain: 2-7 Years				
15.50 - 16.20	Afternoon Tea				
16.20 - 16.50	Keynote Address - Meena Singh, Acting Principal Commissioner & Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People in Victoria				
16.50 - 17.00	Day One Wrap Up				

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Nathan Wallis
Neuroscience
Educator



Dr Jana Pittman
Dual Olympian



Anne Hollonds
National Children's
Commissioner



Meena Singh
Acting Principal Commissioner
for Children and Young People &
Commissioner for Aboriginal Children
and Young People in Victoria

SATURDAY 25 OCT 2025

TIME	GRAND BALLROOM				
9.00 - 9.05	Welcome				
9.05 - 10.05	Keynote Address - Dr Jana Pittman: Change the Beat of Your Drum				
10.05 - 10.45	Morning Tea				
TIME	ROOM A	ROOM B	ROOM C	ROOM D	ROOM E
10.45 - 11.45	Kylie Clark, Director, Kids Family Day Care Stress-Free Programming Achieving Quality Without the Complexity	Stephanie Hoy, Family Day Care Educator, West Country Family Day Care Scheme Setting the Foundations for Children to Become Experts at Play	Kristine Eldridge, Nominated Supervisor, Campbelltown Family Day Care Innovative Leadership – Creating Leaders in Family Day Care	Marie Armstrong, Director, Early Years Care Collaborative Art for Wellbeing - Process Over Product	Rebecca Karlake, Manager - Integrated Children's Services & Natasha de Jong, Family Day Care Field Officer, Ballarat Family Day Care Connections with the Community in Family Day Care
11.45 - 11.55	Short Break				
11.55 - 12.55	Beverley Egan, Director, We Belong Family Day Care Digital Media in a Family Day Care Setting	Victoria Edmond, Director, Big Hearted Education Swingin' the Pendulum Back to a Simpler Time	Natashja Treveton, Managing Director, Inspired EC & Jackie Bennett, Co-Founder, Connecting the Dots Through Culture Embedding First Nations Perspectives and Cultural Awareness in Family Day Care	Perry Campbell, Senior Manager National Projects, ACECQA Place-based Service Delivery	Ashton Posch, Family Day Care Educator, Busy Butterflies Education and Care Celebrating Play and Finding Joy in Neurodiversity in the Family Day Care Environment: Neurodiversity Affirming Practice
TIME	GRAND BALLROOM				
12.55 - 13.55	Lunch				
13.55 - 14.55	Keynote Address - Anne Hollonds, National Children's Commissioner				
14.55 - 15.00	Conference Wrap Up				

SATURDAY 25 OCT 2025

TIME	GRAND BALLROOM
19.00 – 23.00	Conference Gala Dinner - Including the 2025 Excellence in Family Day Care Awards presentation

PULLMAN HOTEL - MELBOURNE - ALBERT PARK
23-25 OCTOBER 2025



Changing to a Direct Gap Fee Collection model - what are services saying?

Since the announcement about the mandatory requirement for all family day care services to transition to Direct Gap Fee Collection (DGFC) from 1 January 2026 (pending the passage of legislation), the sector has responded with a mix of reactions - curiosity, concern, calm, and for some, apprehension.

However, as more and more services begin to transition to a DGFC model, we are hearing clear and consistent positive feedback.

What services are saying:

Currently around 66% of family day care services utilise a DGFC approach.

Services that have already transitioned to DGFC have highlighted several consistent benefits:

- Reduced administration burden for educators

- Improved relationships between educators and families
- Stronger compliance with Family Assistance Law (FAL) and better audit outcomes
- Greater transparency and oversight of gap fee payments for services

A Smoother Transition Than Expected

While the transition to a DGFC model has required dedicated efforts upfront, many services now say it is business as usual and better than before.

“The initial transition was easy but time-consuming. Educators are happy as they get paid their full fee each week - prior to parents paying the gap. In general, it’s working fine.”

One educator-turned-admin staff member shared:

“I was apprehensive at first, but now I manage it from the other side and can see how well it works. It’s manageable, we have strong policies in place, and our debt collection processes are clear. I wouldn’t go back.”

Another service shared:

“It’s something we don’t even think about now - it’s the day-to-day norm. Any hiccups during the early days didn’t have lasting impacts.”

Audits Made Easier

Several services reported that the new process has dramatically improved audit readiness:

"We had an audit before the change - it was a nightmare collecting bank statements and tracking payments. Now we have oversight and everything is in order."

"We had a compliance audit recently and were found to be 100% compliant. The transition has made it easier for educators and given us full visibility over payments."

Less Chasing, More Connecting

The move to DGFC has also removed one of the most uncomfortable parts of the job for educators: chasing payments.

"Educators who didn't have admin as a strength are thriving - they're now spending more time with children and families, instead of chasing payments."

"It's attractive to educators now — they can get back to doing what they're paid to do: caring for children and connecting with families."

"It has removed difficult conversations from educators. Services find it easier to manage now."

Services have found that collecting gap fees directly from families not only strengthens oversight of the process but ultimately supports better relationships:

"The connection between the service and families has strengthened. Educators are very happy - they no longer need to have hard conversations. They can concentrate on what matters."

Managing the Admin Load

In the process of transitioning to a DGFC model, some services experienced an initial increase in admin workload, especially early on around communicating with families, setting expectations, and managing transitions. However, the common thread among successful services has been preparation and strong systems:

"Being proactive with communication, setting up strong processes, and having clear expectations made all the difference."

"We love the compliance report - it shows, for the financial year, when parents paid and how. The system is transparent, and we can confidently say we're meeting our requirements."

"We set up group sessions for families after hours. The upfront time was worth it - it's been smooth ever since."

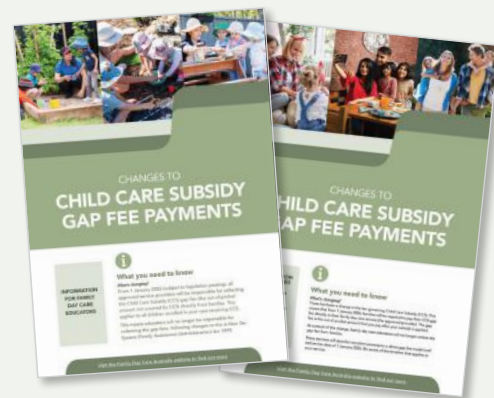
Where services hired additional staff to support the transition process, it has often been about building in support systems that improve sustainability overall:

"Even though our workload increased, the transparency and control we now have makes management easier."

"We love this new way of doing it. It's more transparent, we know exactly who's paying and who isn't, and educators are so relieved they don't have to have those hard conversations anymore."

"We wish we'd done it sooner."

"Six educators were hesitant - now they love it."



Support Is Available

If your service is still preparing for the transition, FDCA is continuing to develop practical resources, templates and information sheets to support the sector through this transition.

These resources will include:

- A range of awareness and information resources tailored for services, educators and families.
- Good practice guidance resources on efficient business practices for your service to implement the changes effectively, including record keeping, use of relevant IT systems, as well as guidance on governance frameworks and relevant policies and procedures.
- Debt collection guidance through best practice models and policies, tips and tools.
- Ongoing direct support through FDCA's sector support team to respond to questions, resolve concerns and address challenges as they arise.

Visit our [webpage housing Direct Gap Fee Collection resources](#).



We would also love to hear how your service is managing the shift to DGFC. Feel free to share your story by emailing dgfc@fdca.com.au.



Multiculturalism

in family day care - how to make it a success

Mugdha Sathe-Thapar, Business Development Team Leader, Elite Family Day Care

“I am not sure what else can I do to support this child”, “I am worried, the child doesn’t eat much here”, “I am having difficulties in settling this new family in my service...”

Are these thoughts familiar? Let’s look at these thoughts with a multicultural angle.

12 years ago, when my son started attending an early childhood education centre in New Zealand, I came across some difficulties to settle him in. As a first-time parent of an eighteen-month-old child, it was heartbreaking to leave him unsettled with his teacher. He did not have appropriate words to express his thoughts to us. His teacher never gave up, and regularly consulted me to understand his likes and dislikes, all the while sharing her views and respecting mine. We built a strong partnership with a common aim: to settle my son in the centre. I was extremely fortunate to receive strong support from the entire centre team. We achieved the desired outcome of

this ‘settling phase’ in about six weeks and the result was beautiful, as I saw my son thriving in the centre for the next four years. The key points that we worked collaboratively on were:

- My son was used to getting hand fed by me - the teacher introduced a spoon to him and with great patience she worked on his self-help skills. She also educated me in this area and encouraged me to utilise these strategies at home. This helped to narrow the gap between home and centre environments.
- At home, we sat together to eat all our meals - the teacher continued to sit next to him until he was comfortable.
- The centre chef was willing to reflect on the menu to include some familiar food for him.

- My son was getting exposed to two languages at home, therefore learning a third language was too much for his little brain. I gave a list of simple words to the teacher to use while communicating with him initially in the centre. This worked wonders!

In this whole process the centre team demonstrated willingness to learn and embrace other practices, yet never hesitated to ask reasons behind why I do certain things. This also gave me the opportunity to learn about the centre and New Zealand culture. It pushed me to get curious about multiculturalism in Early Childhood Education (ECE). I secured my first casual job in ECE and embraced a new career path in a new country.



How to make multiculturalism a success in your family day care

Settling a child in a service is a huge task, and if the child is from a different cultural background, then this settling journey goes on a complicated path. Here, you are not just settling a child, but the whole family. An 'open mindset' is the key here...get curious, ask questions, embrace the differences, set realistic expectations, invest your time in learning something new and I assure you that you will achieve great results. Yes! It can be counted towards individual professional development.

We are well versed with the Google definition of 'culture'. Have you reflected on your culture? What practices have you embedded in your service to reflect your culture? I have heard some educators saying, "I don't know my culture", "We don't have a different culture". 'Culture' doesn't have to be always eating different food, speaking a language other than English or wearing different clothes, but it can be as simple as celebrating specific days with your family, going camping or going to the beach every Sunday. I also hear a sentence regularly, "I found this cultural information on the internet". In today's tech savvy world, it is convenient to source information without spending too much time, but I would strongly recommend to source information from

humans because you will secure personalised and authentic cultural information rather than generic information available on online platforms. Indeed, you will have to invest time and energy in this journey, but have faith in this process and move forward with a positive attitude. I strongly believe if you respect your own culture, it will be easy to respect other cultures because you understand the importance of it and how it can enrich our little peoples' life.

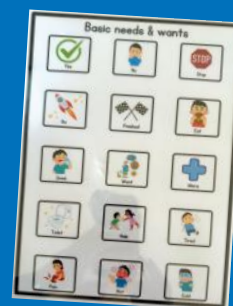
You might not have children from different cultural backgrounds. How about you go on a virtual world tour with the children and start a topic-based learning program on 'cultural diversity around the world'? Music is a universal language and can be included for different learning experiences in the service such as mat sessions, gross motor activities, dancing, rest time or simply having music playing in the background. The children will be prepared to deal with the world confidently by experiencing multicultural environments and learning experiences in early childhood settings.

This topic is very close to my heart and there are still many more stories to share. I would say as an family day care educator, you can draw from your experiences and different cultures and create your own successful story. Good luck!

Success stories

Examples of how educators incorporate multiculturalism in their practice

Paula Whittington has created picture cards to communicate with the children whose second language is English.



Michelle Stanton has taken a different approach. She believes in teaching Auslan to all the children in care, irrespective of their culture, age and ability to use verbal language.

Coming together for mealtimes and reconnecting with your family is extremely important for Nuala Carolan's own cultural beliefs. She has embedded this into her service and has observed some great results.



Mary Barrett practices karakiya (prayer) before all mealtimes. She is proud of her children, confidently reciting karakiya at home as well.

Mikaela Sutyono uses her native Indonesian language every day. She mentioned the families from the same cultural background established a sense of belonging quickly. She thinks this supports the families to practice and preserve the culture here in Australia.

"Selamat siang"
(Good day)

A JOURNEY THROUGH MONTESSORI

and the Heart of Family Day Care

By Choices Family Day Care



Josefina (Jo) Lim's journey to becoming a passionate Montessori educator began in a humble home in the Philippines.

As the youngest of five siblings, Jo quickly found herself immersed in caring for younger cousins, nieces, and nephews. This early experience sparked her love for children, and she always felt an innate desire to nurture and guide young minds. With the support of her parents and older siblings, Jo pursued a degree in psychology, which deepened her understanding of child development and psychology.

Her path eventually led her to Montessori training, where she embraced the principles of Montessori education - a child-centered method that encourages independence, self-directed learning, and respect for the natural development of children. After completing her training, Jo began teaching Year 2 and 3 students, where she saw firsthand

the transformative power of the Montessori approach.

Continuing her journey in New Zealand, Jo met her husband Johnny and they built a life together with their two children Celine and Jonathan. The family then decided to settle on the Gold Coast.

In 2015, Jo made her dream of creating a space where children could thrive under the Montessori philosophy a reality by founding Joyful Learners Montessori House Family Day Care (JLMH FDC), a place where children could learn and grow in a home-like setting with all the benefits of the Montessori method.

Montessori Practices at the Heart of Family Day Care

The foundation of JLMH FDC is deeply rooted in the Montessori

Method, which is centred around allowing children to develop at their own pace in an environment designed to foster independence, curiosity, and a love of learning. In the Montessori approach, the environment is key - everything within it is carefully chosen to stimulate learning and personal development. This is why JLMH FDC is such a special space.

At JLMH FDC, Jo has created a prepared environment where children can explore freely and develop a strong sense of responsibility, independence, and confidence. The space is thoughtfully divided into three areas that reflect Montessori practices, allowing for hands-on exploration, self-directed learning, and a focus on practical life skills.

Creating the prepared environment: a place for exploration

1. The Little House: This space contains the heart of Montessori materials, such as the pink tower and brown stairs, red rods, and knobless cylinders, which help children develop foundational skills in math, language, and sensory perception. The Montessori materials are organised and placed at child height, allowing children to choose what they'd like to work on independently. This organisation helps children understand order, responsibility, and the importance of taking care of their environment.

2. The Activity Area: Located on the patio, this area is a space for practical life activities, which are essential in the Montessori Method. The children engage in tasks such as cutting fruit, baking, and squeezing oranges to make juice. These activities promote fine motor skills and teach children how to care for themselves and their environment in a meaningful, hands-on way. This area is also where the children gather for group activities, science experiments, and creative play like making playdough creations.

3. The Great Outdoors: The outdoor space is an extension of the prepared environment, offering a rich opportunity for children to explore nature. Jo's garden is an essential part of their learning experience, where children care for plants, observe insects, and connect with the natural world. Outdoor activities like gardening, obstacle courses, and mud kitchens support physical development, creativity, and an appreciation for the environment.



Learning Through Hands-On Activities

At JLMH FDC, children engage in learning that is deeply connected to the world around them. Jo sets up activities that foster sensory exploration and hands-on learning. From the garden, where children water plants and harvest vegetables, to the kitchen, where they participate in baking and food preparation, every activity is designed to engage the children in real-world tasks. This type of immersive learning strengthens fine motor skills, builds concentration, and promotes independence - skills that are foundational to Montessori education.

For example, in the garden, children don't just admire the plants - they take an active role in their care, learning about gardening while developing a sense of responsibility. These experiences are not just about acquiring knowledge; they are about creating meaningful connections with the world and developing a sense of pride in their work.

The Importance of Routines and Respect

A key principle of the Montessori Method is respect - respect for oneself, for others, and for the environment. This principle is embedded in the daily routine at JLMH FDC. Jo teaches children how to care for each other, how to cooperate, and how to respect their surroundings. Simple routines, such as setting the table for meals, washing hands before eating, and practicing table manners, allow



children to practice self-discipline and responsibility in a way that is meaningful to them.

Mealtime is especially important, as it offers children the chance to practice grace and courtesy - a core Montessori value. At JLMH FDC, children say Welcome to Country and grace before meals, learning to appreciate their food and the people around them. They practice patience, take turns, and work together to serve and clean up. These moments teach children not only how to care for their own bodies and the environment, but also how to show gratitude and respect for others.

The Heart of Jo's Montessori Family Day Care

At JLMH FDC, Jo has created a space that truly reflects the Montessori philosophy. By providing a prepared environment filled with engaging, hands-on materials, offering opportunities for practical life activities, and fostering independence and respect, Jo is helping to shape the next generation of confident, curious, and compassionate learners. JLMH FDC is not just a daycare - it's a place where children are given the tools and the freedom to grow, learn, and thrive in a way that respects their individual needs and nurtures their natural love for exploration.

This year, Jo is stepping down from working in family day care to focus on her physical health and wellbeing. Choices Family Day Care wish her lots of love and best wishes for any future endeavours.



BUSINESS INSIGHTS



Are you covered in the event of an accident or sickness?

EDUCATOR CASE STUDY

Family day care educators are well aware of the need to ensure they hold insurance, such as Public Liability to protect themselves against incidents where a child or other person suffers an injury or there is property damage.

However, did you know that as most family day care educators are self-employed, they do not have the benefit of sick leave or workers compensation payments in the event of an accident or sickness?

Managing the risk of an accident or sickness are important considerations that all educators should consider when running their business.

While an educator was conducting their family day care business at home, they fell and injured themselves due to a slippery surface. The educator suffered severe soft tissue damage to their knee, ankle, neck and shoulder area.

This injury left them unable to perform their normal family day care duties and meant they were unable to work or earn an income for the unforeseeable future.

Luckily, they were covered by a Personal Accident and Sickness

policy* and contacted FDCA the day following the injury. The claim was lodged and quickly assessed by the insurer who agreed to pay a weekly benefit amount until the educator was able to go back to their normal work duties again.

To date, this educator has received \$16,500 in weekly benefits for this one claim alone.

This educator now has peace of mind and can focus on their recovery without the stress of not having a regular income.

To find out more about Personal Accident and Sickness insurance through FDCA, visit www.fdca.com.au, email memberservices@fdca.com.au or call 1800 658 699.



Public Liability insurance... which policy covers what?

At FDCA we regularly field enquiries from members who are confused about the Public Liability insurance they have taken out for their family day care business and the **Legal Liability** insurance that is included when they purchase a home and contents insurance policy.

It is very important to understand that these policies cover very different risks.

A Public Liability policy with FDCA covers third party claims for negligence that arise out of the running of a family day care

business. The Legal Liability insurance included with a home and contents policy covers third party claims for negligence in the use of the home but outside the family day care business.

For example, a parent is dropping off a child at your home for family day care and falls down a step that was faulty. Because it happened in connection with your business, the FDCA Public Liability policy will respond. However, if you were having a party on a Saturday night and a guest fell down the same faulty step, the home and

contents Legal Liability would be the only policy that could respond.

The Legal Liability section of your Home and Contents insurance policy does not cover an educator's business activities, so it is crucial that educators make sure their Home and Contents insurer knows that they are running family day care from their home.

If you have any questions, please call the FDCA Insurance Team on [1800 658 699](tel:1800658699).

Disclaimer

*Pre-existing conditions are not designed to be covered under a Personal Accident and Sickness policy. Consult the Product Disclosure Statement for further information. The maximum weekly benefit payable is 104 weeks with a maximum 28 day deferment period.



Working together

to promote thriving learning communities and educator wellbeing

Educator wellbeing is essential not only for you but also for your whole community. Our wellbeing as educators, is at the heart of caring for children. This is especially relevant for the family day care sector, where we often work as the sole educator in each learning environment. When educators have positive wellbeing they experience “enjoyment in life, [have] an ability to cope with stress and sadness, work productively, [and feel] the fulfillment of goals and a sense of connectedness with others” (Reupert, 2020).

In family day care settings, where we work in close personal environments with children and families, our wellbeing directly influences our relationships, interactions and overall learning experiences for children (Cumming, 2017; McMullen et al., 2020). Research also highlights that our wellbeing has close links to children’s wellbeing and their learning outcomes (Hine et al., 2020).

While it is important for everyone to look after their own mental health and wellbeing, you, as a family day care educator, also require a welcoming, supportive,

safe, and intellectually stimulating environment to thrive (Reupert, 2020). Research has shown that our wellbeing is shaped by six different contributing factors which include: individual educator factors, collegial relationships across the organisation, workplace culture, community support, leadership, and organisational governance and policy (Be You Beyond Self-Care: An Educator Wellbeing Guide, 2023).

When working in family day care, the role of collegial relationships can be a powerful protective factor for our mental health and wellbeing. Strategies that promote intentional connection, collaboration, and respectful relationships between colleagues is one of the recommended principles for thriving workplaces (Principle 4: Promote respectful relationships; [Be You Beyond Self-Care: An Educator Wellbeing Guide](#), 2023).

Ways to promote collegial relationships for wellbeing, as a family day care educator:

- Plan a curriculum experience where you can also get together with a colleague or two. Consider

planning for this on a regular basis to critically reflect and collaborate on curriculum and documentation.

- Create a digital communication channel specifically for wellbeing – where colleagues can check in with one another and share wellbeing practices, ideas, and stories of success and challenge.
- Learn more about effective [communication skills for educators](#) to build a shared understanding of active listening skills and respectful relationships with colleagues.

How Be You can support your learning community

Be You Consultants are available to help your family day care scheme integrate these wellbeing principles into your unique contexts. Nominated Be You Action Team Leaders can reach out to their Be You Consultant for support or [contact us](#) via the website.

Dr. David J. Williams

It's hard to believe the 2024/25 financial year has ended, but with July here, it's time to organise your records to either prepare your return or provide them to your accountant or tax agent. Smart organisation of your records saves time, cuts stress and accounting fees, and boosts your deductions and tax savings. As a family day Care educator, delivering exceptional care is your passion. Pairing this with organised, regular record-keeping habits ensures you secure the financial rewards you deserve.

Every expense you miss could increase your tax bill, but claiming ineligible items risks ATO penalties.

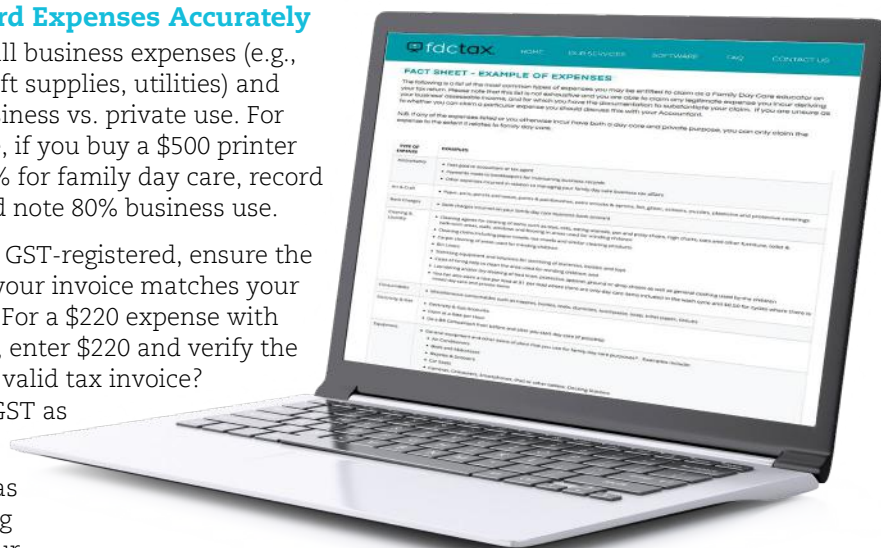
Try free templates or app trials and discuss options with your accountant or fellow educators.

Record all business expenses (e.g., toys, craft supplies, utilities) and note business vs. private use. For example, if you buy a \$500 printer used 80% for family day care, record \$500 and note 80% business use.

Record GST as \$0.

You may also find our fact sheet www.fdc tax .com .au/ example of expenses a handy reference for the types of expenses you should be looking to record.

The ATO requires you to keep receipts for 5 years, and electronic copies (e.g., photos or PDFs) are valid if clear and legible. Some programs



- Create a “Tax Records” folder in OneDrive, with subfolders for “2024-2025” and quarters (e.g., “Q1 Jul-Sep 2024”).
- Snap receipt photos with your phone, ensuring date and amount are visible. Upload to the correct folder via the OneDrive app.
- Name files clearly, e.g., “2024-08-15_Toys_\$50.jpg”.



- Share the folder with your accountant via a secure link.

Weekly uploads prevent a year-end scramble, and cloud storage keeps records safe if your phone or computer fails.

4. Get Income Right to Avoid Errors

Use your scheme's Educator Payment History Report for accurate income and levy data it can often be more reliable than bank statements or at least be used for verification purposes. Check that it covers the full financial year (1 July 2024–30 June 2025). If you switched schemes, request reports from each.

Beware of "double-dipping" levies. If your scheme collects \$1,000, deducts \$100 in levies, and pays you \$900, record \$1,000 as income and \$100 as a deduction. Recording only \$900 as income and claiming the \$100 levy again understates your income, risking ATO penalties. The ATO's 2025 data-matching focus makes accuracy critical.

5. Stay ATO-Compliant with Diaries and Logbooks

The ATO is scrutinizing small business deductions in 2025, so substantiate claims with diaries or apps like myDeductions. Track car travel, phone, internet, or home usage, and note percentages (e.g., 70% business for internet). Record your vehicle's odometer reading on 30 June 2025.

No diary or logbook? The ATO allows reasonable estimates, but claims may be lower. Provide your accountant with estimated kilometres travelled or hours used for childcare. Start diaries now for 2025/26 to strengthen future claims.

Top 5 Tax Tips for 2025

- Scan and enter all your receipts.
- Track business vs. private use in diaries or apps.
- Use your Payment History Report for income accuracy.
- Store receipts in the cloud for 5 years.
- Consult your accountant for 2025 ATO updates.

6. Start 2026 Right

Begin 1 July 2025 with a solid system. Spend 5–10 minutes weekly scanning receipts, updating diaries, and checking income reports. Consistency reduces stress and maximizes deductions. Set up a simple Excel or Google Sheets template now, and you'll thank yourself next June.

Need Help?

Your accountant is your best ally. Share reports (e.g., Profit & Loss) or cloud folders, and discuss estimates if records are incomplete. Visit www.ato.gov.au for guidance or contact your scheme for Payment History Reports. Here's to a stress-free 2025 tax season!



ACECQA resources

for family day care services

F The [Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority \(ACECQA\) website](#) contains resources to support family day care providers and educators in delivering quality outcomes for children.

Family day care materials

On the ACECQA website you'll find guidance material for family day care providers, nominated supervisors, coordinators and educators on the [Family Day Care materials page](#). These resources include information sheets on subjects such as record keeping, assessments of family day care

residences, and family day care enrolment and orientation.

The [Leading in Family Day Care](#) blog post features insights on leadership in family day care by Cathy Bavage, former Manager of Wynnum Family Day Care and former Board Director for Family Day Care Australia. The article discusses the benefits of:

- distributed leadership, where each educator is seen as a leader in their area of expertise
- quality leadership practice through a relationship-based model that adapts to the unique contexts of children, families, educators and the community

- empowering, advocating for and supporting the autonomy of the educators while embracing the changing nature of family day care.

Read the full blog post at: [acecqa.gov.au/latest-news/blog/leading-family-day-care](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/latest-news/blog/leading-family-day-care)

Guide to the NQF updates

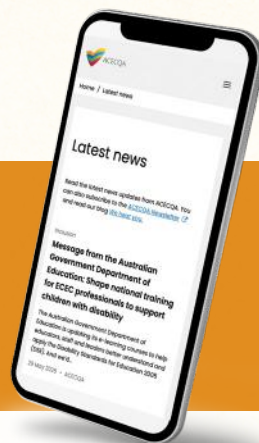
The [Guide to the NQF](#) was updated on 1 January 2025. A particular focus was new content on the approval in principle (AIP) scheme, as well as minor updates throughout.



Australian Children's
Education & Care
Quality Authority®

LATEST NEWS

The ACECQA Newsletter contains articles that offer the latest practical advice for providers and services. Our We Hear You blog features unique perspectives from the children's education and care sector. Check the [Latest news page](#) regularly for updates.



ACECQA Resource Finder

This tool on the ACECQA website makes it easy to search through our library for early childhood education and care services. Head to the [ACECQA Resource Finder](#) and type 'family day care' in the search bar.

National Quality Standard resources for educators

The [National Quality Standard \(NQS\)](#) section on our website contains detailed information on each of the 7 quality areas.

The NQS poster is a useful tool for educators to view the concept and descriptor for each quality area at a glance, broken down by standard and element. This makes it easier to understand and apply these guidelines in your work with children.

Resources for families

[StartingBlocks.gov.au](#) is ACECQA's family focused website, and we encourage families to visit it to find out about quality education and care. It's Australia's free government website for families and communities to find and compare services by quality ratings, fees, vacancies and inclusions.

Resource topics include:

- outdoor play
- the importance of play
- multilingual families
- understanding the NQS
- the assessment and rating process

Visit [startingblocks.gov.au/resources](#) to learn more.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD	
Concept	Descriptor
QA1	Educational program and practice
1.1	Program
1.1.1	Approved learning framework
1.1.2	Child-centred
1.1.3	Program learning opportunities
1.2	Practice
1.2.1	Intentional teaching
1.2.2	Responsive teaching and scaffolding
1.2.3	Child directed learning
1.3	Assessment and planning
1.3.1	Assessment and planning cycle
1.3.2	Critical reflection
1.3.3	Information for families
QA2	Children's health and safety
2.1	Health
2.1.1	Wellbeing and comfort
2.1.2	Health practices and procedures
2.2	Healthy lifestyle
2.3	Safety
2.2.1	Supervision
2.2.2	Incident and emergency management
2.2.3	Child protection
QA3	Physical environment
3.1	Design
3.1.1	Fit for purpose
3.1.2	Upkeep
3.2	Use
3.2.1	Inclusive environment
3.2.2	Resources support play-based learning
3.2.3	Environmentally responsible

Scan or click the
QR code below to
download a PDF
of the poster



Associations

Family Day Care Educators' Associations

State family day care educators' associations represent educators and provide a range of member-based services, including advice, training, resources and assistance to Educator members. Executive committee representatives work in a voluntary capacity to support fellow Educators to provide quality home-based child care services.

Family Day Care Associations

State family day care associations provide a range of member-based services including advice, training, resources and assistance to members. This support strengthens services and assists staff in their vital role of providing effective support services to Educators and families. The association works actively to promote family day care within their respective states.

Each association operates independently of FDCA.

New South Wales

- Family Day Care Educators' Association NSW Inc
0490 776 339
www.fdceducatorsnsw.com.au
- NSW Family Day Care Association
02 9779 9999
www.nswfdc.org.au

Tasmania

- Family Day Care Council of Tasmania Inc.
0439 307 273

South Australia

- Family Day Care Educators' Association of South Australia
0418 831 433
www.fdcassocsa.com.au

Western Australia

- Family Day Care Educators' Association, Western Australia, Inc.
08 9255 5290
- Family Day Care WA
08 9251 5777
www.familydaycarewa.com.au

Northern Territory

- Alice Springs Carers' Support Group
08 8952 2906

Queensland

- Family Day Care Association Queensland Inc.
07 3399 3737
www.fdcqld.org



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

● Sreevidya Yadatisastrula, Twinkle Family Daycare, Bungarribee, NSW

How long have you worked in family day care for and where are you located?

Hi, I'm Sreevidya Yadatisastrula, but the children lovingly call me "Sree." I have been a passionate family day care educator for nearly nine years. My service, Sree's Family Day Care, affectionately known as 'Home Away from Home,' is nestled in the heart of Bungarribee, NSW and proudly registered with Twinkle Family Daycare, located in Blacktown, NSW.

Can you tell us a little bit about your background in the early childhood sector?

Before stepping into the Early childhood sector, I earned a master's degree in business administration and spent nearly a decade working in Human Resources. However, becoming a mother to two wonderful boys brought a deep, natural desire to create a more balanced lifestyle that supports both my family and my passion for working with children. That pivotal life change led me to pursue a career in early childhood education, and it has truly been one of the most fulfilling decisions I've ever made.

My journey began in 2013, gaining experience across long

day care, preschool, and Out of School Hours (OOSH) care settings.

Sree's Family Day Care was born on 08th Aug 2016 - a warm, welcoming, and inclusive home-based service where children feel safe, supported, and loved.

If you could provide only one answer to the question – why choose family day care? – what would it be?

Absolutely - it's Family! Family day care is where hearts grow. In my family day care, children are welcomed with open arms and treated as part of our extended family. They grow in a loving, home-like

environment where their unique personalities are celebrated, their voices are heard, and their well-being truly matters.

One of the greatest strengths of family day care is the flexibility it offers to meet the varying needs of families, along with the ability to provide one-on-one attention and genuinely personalised care. As an educator and a mum, I pour my heart into creating a space filled with joy, learning, laughter, and meaningful connections. It's a place where children don't just come to be cared for, they come to belong.

What has your family day care been up to lately?

Lately, my family day care has been buzzing with meaningful initiatives that support not only the children but also their families and the wider community. I've been actively advocating for the well-being of both parents and children in my care, introducing wellness-focused activities such as Zumba classes, pampering sessions for parents, and soccer training sessions tailored to the children's interests and led by professionals.

We've also been deeply engaged in implementing our Reconciliation Action Plan. This includes collaborating with Aboriginal Elders and artists, purchasing resources from



local Indigenous-owned businesses, farmers, and suppliers, and creating opportunities for children to learn about and respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures, and contributions in meaningful and age-appropriate ways.

What would you say your family day care is best known for?

My family day care is best known for its inclusive, nurturing, and community-focused environment. When I first began, I worked with children who shared similar cultural backgrounds and interests, which made planning group activities more straightforward. However, as my service evolved to include children from diverse cultures, family structures, and developmental needs, I was inspired to reflect more deeply on my inclusion practices. I proudly partner with the NSW/ACT Inclusion Agency, which further supports my commitment to inclusive practices and helps ensure that every child has equitable access to learning and participation. Inclusion is not just a principle I follow; it's a part of everything I do!

What do you like to do when you're not working?

Outside of my work as a family day care educator, I'm passionate about giving back to the community and spending quality time with my family. In my personal downtime, I enjoy long walks on the beach, camping, bushwalking, and expressing my thoughts through writing and journaling. These activities help me unwind, reflect, and stay inspired.

What is the best piece of advice you would give to a new educator?

Start with the heart and let inclusion guide your practice from the very beginning.



empowered and accountable for creating environments where children are protected from harm, feel heard, and are actively involved in decisions that affect them.

What is the best advice you have received yourself?

One piece of advice that has stayed and will continue to stay with me throughout my journey is:

"Meet the child where they are, not where you expect them to be."

It reminds me to see each child as a whole, unique individual, bringing their own strengths, rhythms, and perspectives. Instead of focusing solely on developmental milestones or curriculum goals, it encouraged me to truly observe, listen, respond and plan for each child with empathy, flexibility, and patience.

It also shaped me to reframe challenges as opportunities to connect more deeply and think more creatively.

What has been the highlight of your career so far?

The highlight of my career so far has been the deep, lasting relationships I've built with the children and families in my care. Many children who joined me as babies or toddlers stayed until they moved on to 'big school,' and often their siblings, cousins, or friends have been enrolled through word of mouth. That trust and connection mean the world to me. Some of the most touching moments are when a child who has left my care still calls to share their milestones, send me birthday wishes, or simply say hello.

From supporting a shy child to find their voice, to helping a family navigate developmental challenges with compassion and collaboration, each moment adds meaning to my work. A particularly proud moment was being awarded twice as Regional Educator of the year in the Excellence in Family Day Care Awards and being recognised within my community for my inclusive practices and involvement, affirming that what I do every day is not only valued, but truly making a difference.

Every child/family, who enters your care brings a unique story, background, and set of strengths. Don't be afraid if things feel unfamiliar or challenging at first. Seek help! What matters most is your curiosity to learn, the courage to reflect, and the commitment to grow. Willingness to see each child for who they are and respond to their voices, strengths, needs with empathy, flexibility, and intention.

Always remind yourself why you chose this path, because every child matters. And so does your role in their journey!!

What is the biggest change you have seen during your time working in the sector?

One of the most significant and impactful changes I've seen in the early childhood education sector over the years is the deepening focus on inclusion, well-being, and child safety. What once may have been more implicit is now supported by strong frameworks, policies, and professional expectations.

The introduction of the Child Safety Standards and the movement towards child safe organisations has been a transformative shift, placing child safety and wellbeing at the centre of everything we do. As educators, we are now more





Responsive Learning Relationships

with Very Young Children through Research-informed Practice

By Linda Harrison, Kathryn Byrne and Susan Irvine

Although current research into educational programs and practices predominantly focuses on older children, it is imperative that infants and toddlers are afforded equal attention.

The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) V2.0 (2022) emphasises the intentional role of educators as they engage with very young children, inviting them to recognise and sensitively respond to infants' and toddlers' intentions, as they explore, practice, and experiment through play-based experiences (p.22). The challenge, for educators, is to appreciate each young child's capability to demonstrate learning outcomes in embodied and diverse ways to support meaningful observation, responsive practice and critical reflection.

Cheeseman and Sumsion (2016) suggest that positioning the educator as both knowledgeable and susceptible requires the educator

to watch and listen closely, keeping assumptions or expectations in check and viewing the encounter as an invitation to enter into the child's learning interests. In this way, approaches to assessing learning, development, and wellbeing when working with very young children become intuitive, attentive and nuanced.

As professionals, the EYLF V2.0 (2022) positions family day care educators as reflective practitioners who are committed to ongoing learning and evidence-informed practice (pp. 18). This includes collaborating with colleagues and contributing to research to build our shared knowledge base and improve children's learning, development and wellbeing.

The latest NQS Snapshot (Feb 2025) reports that 22% of Australia's 355 Family Day Care Services are rated as Working Towards NQS, 69% Meeting NQS and 8% Exceeding NQS. These ratings are informed by Quality Area 1: Educational programs and practices. To achieve the Exceeding Theme 2 in this area, educators must critically reflect on research evidence to deliver high-quality early childhood programs for infants and toddlers.

These expectations highlight the need for adequate professional development and professional conversations to build shared contemporary understandings of the developmental and educational capabilities of infants and toddlers.

The National Quality Framework (ACECQA, 2025a) does not prescribe a definition of best practice, but conveys an expectation that educators will draw on recognised guidance, theories and research evidence to inform pedagogical decision-making. Whilst acknowledging the unique and specialised context of working with children from birth to three, the Guide to the National Quality Framework poses the question:

How do we apply our knowledge of learning and development, and the content of the learning framework to this age group [birth to three years]?

An invitation to family day care educators working with children birth to 3 years

The Observe, Reflect, Improve Children's Learning (ORICL) research project offers educators working with very young children a unique opportunity to build and extend their specialist knowledge and skills in observation and critical reflection. ORICL provides a digital tool that identifies key aspects of learning and development from birth to three years aligned with the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF), and includes prompts and examples to support thinking and reflection. Funded by the Australian Research Council, the project is being led by Professor Linda Harrison working with a team of researchers from Macquarie University, Queensland University of Technology, Charles Sturt University, University of the Sunshine Coast, University of New South Wales, and McMaster University (Canada). The project is being undertaken in collaboration with 11 industry partners, including Family Day Care Australia.

We are reaching out to family day care services, coordination staff and educators who may be interested in learning more about ORICL. We invite you to join a family day care community of practice and contribute to this project and engage in research that informs practice. For further information about the study and what participation involves, visit the ORICL website (www.oricl.org) or contact Tracy Redman, Project Manager (tracy.redman@mq.edu.au).

Research has shown that high-quality infant-toddler programs are multifaceted and complex, and require educators to:

Embed their expert knowledge of observation, analysis and reflection to present a holistic view of very young children;

- Thoughtfully plan authentic and meaningful experiences to support infant-toddler learning;
- Encourage and foster the exploration and active participation of infants and toddlers as agentic; and
- Ensure authentic and accurate documentation of each child's learning journey and effectively share this progress with children, families and other relevant stakeholders (Dalli & White, 2016; Elwick et al., 2023)

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Red Star House

Find the Red Star House and you can win a Melissa & Doug Fold & Go Barn.

Designed for imaginative play, this wooden barn can be used open or closed. Featuring seven farm animals and a ladder, the barn will delight children ages three and over. The set is valued at \$170.45.

Dramatic and imaginative play helps children to develop language and communication skills and promotes creativity and imagination. This beautiful hand-crafted design is made with durable wood and can be folded up and transported using the carry handle.

Competition closes 10 August 2025.



FUN WITH FDCA



Sudoku

Fruit & Veg Chopping Set

Great for pretend play, the Fruit and Vegetable Chopping Set includes chopping boards, wooden knives and sliceable fruits and vegetables. Featuring Velcro joins, children 18 months and over, will love preparing the orange, lemon, kiwi, strawberry, apple, tomato, mushroom, shallot, capsicum and cucumber for their friends.

The set is valued at \$87.95.

Produced using environmentally safe, responsible and sustainable methods, this set is an excellent way to familiarise children with different food options whilst they develop fine motor skills & hand-eye coordination.

Competition closes 10 August 2025.

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9	8			5	1			7
7		6	8		3			2
	1	9		3	2	5		
8	7						4	1
		5	1	8		3	6	
5			6		8	1		3
3			5	7			2	6
		8						

congratulations

...to the winners
from Issue 107

Find the Red Star House
Mona Kelada, NSW

Sudoku
Qazi Arsalan Ahmed, VIC

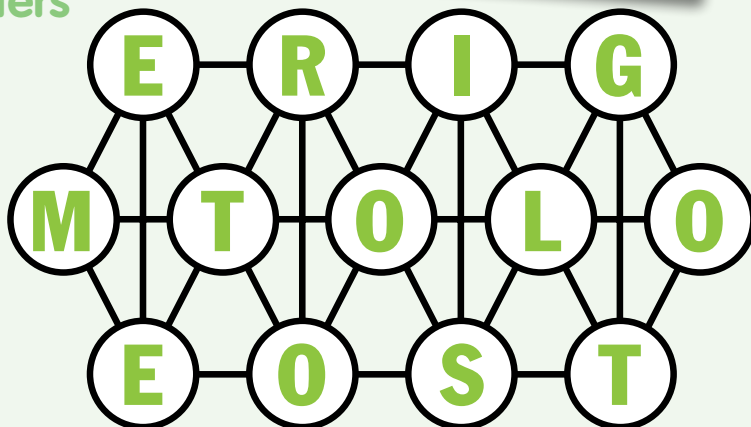
Chain Letters
Emma Berry, QLD



Chain Letters

Can you find the 13-letter word hiding in the chain? You must use all 13 letters once only and can move from circle to circle only where they are connected by lines.

Competition closes 10 August 2025.

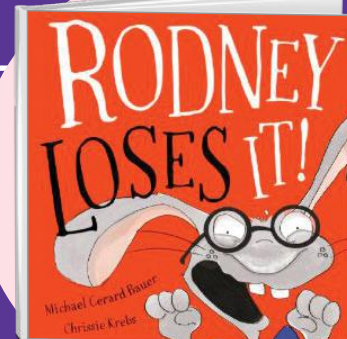




SCHOLASTIC Storytime

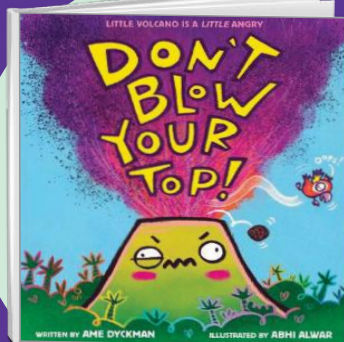
RODNEY LOSES IT!

The illustrations on the back cover immediately grabbed my friends' attention - especially Rodney's funny drawings. As we read, they were hooked, especially since they love drawing too. When Rodney lost his favourite pen, my friends eagerly searched every page to help him find it. They felt his frustration when he "lost it" and cheered when we spotted the pen on the desk! Rodney's wild expressions and the rhyming text kept everyone laughing, especially when he lost his glasses - which were on his head! A fun, engaging story that inspired us to get creative ourselves.



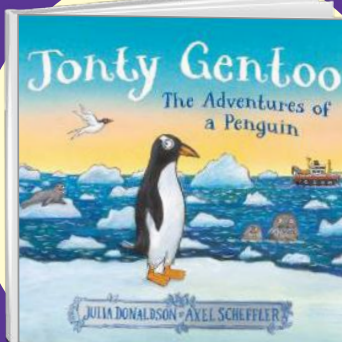
DON'T BLOW YOUR TOP

This hardcover book instantly caught my little friends' attention - they chose it first out of the four! The story was simple yet powerful, with beautiful illustrations. After getting hit by coconuts, the little volcano erupts in anger. But with guidance from the big volcano, he learns to calm down by breathing, counting, and thinking of happy things. My friends loved it and picked up some great strategies for managing big emotions. A fantastic read with a meaningful message about self-regulation.



DRAGONS LOVE TACOS 2: THE SEQUEL

The dragon-filled cover instantly grabbed my friends' attention - they love dragons and dinosaurs! Even though we hadn't read the first book, the "time machine" filled us in. The dragons' fiery reactions to spicy salsa had everyone laughing, and we loved the idea of planting a taco tree to have tacos anytime. While it felt more suited to preschool and early primary ages, we still had a great time reading it. It sparked fun chats about our favourite foods and how wild it would be to breathe fire like dragons!



JONTY GENTOO: THE ADVENTURES OF A PENGUIN

Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler never disappoint! My friends and I loved following Jonty's journey as he searched for the South Pole, meeting all kinds of animals along the way. A helpful polar bear and a tern guided him when he got lost at the North Pole, and a fishing boat helped him reach his true home. The rhyming story and colourful illustrations kept us hooked. Living in the Whitsundays, we especially loved the whales - it reminded us of the ones that visit our warm waters. What a fun and heartwarming adventure!

ABOUT SCHOLASTIC

Scholastic has been the market leader of Australian children's publishing for over 50 years, bringing the joy of reading to multiple generations of Australian families.

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BOOK REVIEWER:

At Lil' Bumble Bees Family Day Care, children feel safe, supported, and inspired to learn through play. We enjoy stories, creative activities, outdoor fun, and exploring messy play experiences. Every child is valued, and their unique interests guide our day. It's a little place with a lot of heart!

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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Nathan Wallis



Dr Jana Pittman



Anne Hollonds



Meena Singh

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