



Alice Springs
Family Day Care

ASFDC NEWS

April 2016

Coordination unit news

As this is our first newsletter for 2016 we would like to welcome all new families to the scheme. Please feel free to call or drop in to the office at any time if you need anything.

Staffing

We would like to welcome Michelle and Kari to our wonderful group of educators this year and look forward to working with them to create positive outcomes for children.

In the office we also have a few changes, welcome to Aretha who has taken on the administration role in Penny's absence and is working Monday to Friday during school hours. Emma has come back on board this year on Wednesdays and Thursdays to facilitate play session and take on other duties around the office. Brooke has changed her hours and will be available Mon, Tues, Wed all day and Thurs mornings. The scheme manager position has also been advertised and interviews will be conducted during May.

Invitation to Facilitated Session

As part of our strategic plan for ASFDC we have Catherine Hydon, an experienced Early Childhood consultant who has recently worked with Family Day Care QLD, returning to run a discussion on reviewing and updating our philosophy in order to create a backbone for the scheme as a whole. As an early childhood service the philosophy should underpin all of our practices and be agreed upon by all parties.

In order to create an authentic philosophy that reflects us all, we would like to invite our families and educators to attend and provide input into the process. This scheme values family and educator's thoughts and opinions so please come along and have some input. If you have any questions please contact the office.

Saturday 7th May

- 9:00 – 9:30am – Meet and greet with educators, families, staff and Catherine
- 9:30 – 10:30am – Discussion session

Important dates



Facilitated session

Saturday 7th May

9:00 – 10:30am

RSVP: Thursday
5th May

Family Day Care week play session

Wednesday 4th May

Road Safety Centre

Newland st, Gillen

9:00 – 11:00am



Play session

Term 2 of play session is in full swing. Last term we focused on sensory exploration which created a very calm dynamic within the groups. This term we are trialing getting out and about with excursions bi weekly to parks, museums and the road safety centre.

Attending play session has many benefits including expanding social networks for both children and educators as well gaining support and ideas for each service. Liz, Glenda and Emma attend play session each week with the aim that we can support and encourage a strong team of educators, strengthening best practice and outcomes for children. If you have any thoughts or ideas about play session please let Emma know, she would be more than happy to hear them.

We would really like to see all educators attending play session at least once per month, so we can kick some goals in regards to our team and practice. The bus will be available again from the 11th of May so please call the office to book a ride! If families would like to know more please speak to your educator or call the office.

National Family Day Care Week Celebrations

National Family Day Care week is next week May 1-7! We are celebrating by holding a special play session at the road safety centre. Morning tea and face painting will be available as well as full use of the centre.

We have extended the invitation out to families so if you are free please come on down, celebrate and support Family Day Care!

Wednesday May 4th
Newland Park Road Safety Centre
Newland st, Gillen
9:00am – 11:00am



The Educational Leader

The National Quality Framework (NQF) which was launched in 2012 mandated the appointment of an 'educational leader' for all education and care services. As part of our continuous improvement, Glenda and I have been working together to assist all educators during our visits, to motivate and encourage educators to work towards shared goals for children and their learning.

During the visits, we may mentor educators by leading best practice, discuss routines, assist with documenting children's learning, demonstrate how the learning may be linked to the learning outcomes of the Early Years Learning Framework, as well as overseeing the health, safety and wellbeing of all children in care. We see our role as being supportive and important for building trusting relationships with our educators, children and families of our service.

One area of our role that we would like to explore and unpack with each educator is to encourage the practice of critical reflection as a form of ongoing learning of our ethics and practice. Critical reflection is an important element of the National Quality Standards and intended for educators and educator support officers to inform important decision making when thinking about the learning of children in our service. It gives us all an opportunity to look at what is happening in each educators setting and what changes may be needed or developed to enrich the experiences, learning environments and overall health and well-being of children in our care. So let's have those wonderful conversations when we come out to visit and let Glenda and I know if you need further support of training around critical reflection.

Thank you

Liz Patten- Educational Leader



ASFDC Board of Governance

Members Needed

Alice Springs Family Day Care is governed by a board of governance; the board is made up of families within the scheme, educators and other interested members of the community.

Currently we are interested in hearing from families or interested members of the community who wish to join our board of governance. We are particularly interested in people with a background in business, law, finance or human resources, as skills and knowledge in these areas can be of great use, however we would love to hear from anyone wanting to be involved.



Photos – play experiences created with recycled and natural materials that were created by educators alongside a workshop facilitator we had at our April educator meeting.