

Minutes of Clarence Family Day Care Scheme meeting held on Tuesday 11th September 2018 at the Scheme's offices, 19 Alma Street, Bellerive

Present: Angelica Sunnucks, Nita Kitto, Sally Lovell, Debbie Morey, Tina Sansom-Karppa, Linda Spencer, Nicole Riley, Gabrielle Haley, Dee Francis, Kim Abbott, Nancy Tung, Maureen Taylor, Nikki Mckeown, Robyn Horner, Katrina Stewart, Angela Free.

Apologies: Janet Davey, Jayne Wiggins, Maree Woods-Trezise, Jackie Devereaux-McLean, Karen Masters, Rachel Richards, Sharon Dorsett.

Focus: Scott Gibson talking about risk and why children need to take risks.

- Everyday life is full of risks and challenges and children need opportunities to develop the associated skills, and make informed judgements about risk from a very young age.
- We need to reskill parents and lose the cotton wool. There is a new breed of parents called 'the lawn mower parent' – parents who mow down all the obstacles necessary to prevent their children facing adversity, struggle or failure.
- Ellen Beate Hansen Sandseter from Norway has done a lot of research into risky play, (she has 6 categories of risky play) wellbeing and outdoor education in early childhood settings and other researchers are probing the link between 'nature time' and adverse health conditions in children
- Ask 'what are the children getting out of this'? Think about the outside space; are there reasonable choices that involve challenge and encourage curiosity and interest; does the spaces build confidence where children can understand the need for safety and learn to assess risk.
- Educators tend to plan for inside but not so much for outside. Look at areas such as communication or large motor skill development – how can these be extended outside?
- In looking at risks and benefits consider: is the level of challenge appropriate for the group? How are the risks assessed and balanced against the benefits that can be expected? Can the reason behind offering this experience be justified even if events don't go to plan? Are management arrangements appropriate to the location? Are you appropriately skilled/experienced to provide the experience? Are there examples of quality practice to draw from?
- Understanding the risk and benefit allows us to advocate the risk taken
- Approach risk from a positive viewpoint
- Emphasis should be on eliminating unacceptable risk and managing/controlling acceptable risk
- The balance between risk and opportunity is appropriate for the children concerned
- Involve children in the assessment of risk and hazards

Scott gave some scenarios and those present worked together to develop a benefit risk assessment.

ECU Spot visits and A&R – the focus is on Health, Hygiene and Safety. We see the opportunity to have spot checks as positive - we can all reflect on whether our practices and procedures are ok. This is not only about educators but also about staff and what they see when they are out and about.

We have had some feedback from educators and staff from other services who have recently undergone spot checks or/and A&R. Some areas highlighted were:

- Hygiene practices around wiping noses
- Hand washing processes, the use of sanitiser for children and educators
- Nappy change procedure, mats, all equipment and items required are readily accessible
- Sleep areas and safe sleep practices
- Policies and procedures –awareness of and access to
- Checked all non-registered areas were inaccessible
- All mandatory items displayed eg. Injury action forms etc.
- All documents at hand, visitor register, daily checklist, cleaning schedule, minor illness and incident register, evac/invac practices for the past year

- Training certificates, car checks etc.
- Outdoor environment, hazard check
- Climbing risks inside and out, especially against fences
- Menu available if providing meals, including past menus
- First Aid kit and contents are within the use-by date
- Fire blanket available
- Power point covers in place
- Heaters and electrical appliances.
- Ratios discussed and timesheets checked re adhering to numbers, especially when own children are in care
- Floor plan of registered areas.

We need educators' current routines so that spot visits can be organised around things such as school pick-ups.

National Family Day Care Australia Conference: Angela and Katrina attended the recent conference. Katrina spoke about the Kentish Lifelong Learning and Care Inc. Family Day Care service in Darwin that has developed a Reconciliation in Action Project, working with local Aboriginal communities. Katrina recommends that educators go onto the Kentish website and have a look at the excellent resources they have developed. Katrina also mentioned that it may be worth contacting a local Tasmanian Aboriginal group to establish connections.

Angela said that the FDCA CEO Andrew Patterson has been working extremely hard behind the scenes with the federal government to develop better outcomes for family day care. At the moment this has to remain 'commercial in confidence'.

Angela and Katrina will talk more about the conference at the next scheme meeting,

Meeting closed at 9.00pm

Next meeting: Thursday 1st November

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