



Newsletter October 2018

As children spend more and more time indoors and ready access to hand-held devices grows, (often with negative consequences), even for very young children, being outside becomes increasingly important for both children and educators. Unstructured outdoor play develops the whole child, both physically and mentally. The Early Years Learning Framework emphasises learning through play and the importance of the natural environment in learning environments. Some of the main benefits of being outside in the natural world include developing gross motor skills, developing the use of the senses, feeling positive and having a sense of calmness, gives a sense of place, and it can help to embed a desire to learn about and appreciate the world. It provides lots of challenges and be great fun – for everyone!



Do you go to a park or playground that you and the children really enjoy? Tosca is compiling a list to share with educators, so if you have a favourite, please let us know so that we can include it.

Your Wellbeing Matters is a new campaign by FDCA aimed at educators and their own wellbeing. In coping with change and meeting the requirements of the NQF, educators can overlook their own needs and wellbeing. Change in child care has been happening for years and child care practices will continue to grow and evolve. (After all, without change there would never be butterflies!)

Keep an eye out for the wellbeing posts on the FDCA Facebook page.



Hot topic: A&R visits and spot checks –as you would be aware, officers from the Education and Care Unit have been conducting spot visits to family day care educators throughout the state.

Robyn recently attended a workshop about being prepared for these visits.

Key points were: how does your philosophy influence your practice? - it needs to be visible and your talk match your walk; believe in what you do – if you know it's beneficial for children back it up with your reasons why you are doing it; know the scheme's policies and be putting them into practice, especially around health and hygiene; if you have animals ensure that they have an area where they can be separate from the children in care;

and remember – believe in yourself, relax and take a deep breath – you've got this!

For your diary: The Education and Care Unit is holding an ACECQA Quality Practice Workshop on Inclusion in Practice on Tuesday 11th December 6.30-8.45pm at Learning Services South Hall in Lindisfarne. It is free and more information is available from the Katrina, Robyn or Angela.
