



**Family DAYCARE**  
BURDEKIN TO WHITSUNDAYS

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### January 2026

Follow us:

Bowen/Collinsville Family Day Care



Dates to note:

Happy New Year  
Thursday 1<sup>st</sup>

International Day for Educators  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup>

Australia Day  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup>

QLD State Schools Start  
Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup>



Our office will be closed from the 24 Dec, and will have reduced staffing and operational hours, up until the 05 Jan 2025.

A Coordinator is contactable via mobile phone during this period.

**Merry Christmas!**

Welcome New Families!

Roberts/Wendelborn,  
Geiszler/Capper,  
Halley, Pearce/Bell,  
Girgenti, Tutt,  
Davy, McKnight/Badger, Hasset,  
Norris/Murray, Barbagello,  
Townsend/Hataraka, Smith

#### FIRST AND LAST DAY

#### ABSENCES AND THE CHILD

#### CARE SUBSIDY.

The Child Care Subsidy will not be applied when:

-> A child is absent for their first day/s of care.

-> A child does not attend their last booked day/s of childcare.

For more information visit:

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/child-care-subsidy-if-your-child-absent-from-child-care?context=41186>

# Welcome

We would like to welcome Cheryl, Sylvie and Natalie to the Bowen Collingsville Family Day Care Scheme team!



## **Cheryl McSwain Fairy Godmother Family Day Care Home Hill**

I believe in providing a loving, nurturing care environment, with safety as paramount. Fostering relationships between parents and children is extremely important and I believe building attachment is cornerstone for a strong foundation in which future growth development can build upon.

## **Sylvie Dewitte Our Little Village Family Day Care Magnetic Island**

As a qualified early childhood educator, I believe that every child is a capable and unique individual. In my home-based family daycare, I create a warm, nurturing, and inclusive environment where children feel safe, respected, and loved; just like part of the family.



# **Think UV, not heat.**

**Check the UV regardless of the season -**  
it doesn't have to be hot for UV to damage your skin.



**Protect your skin when UV is 3 and above.**



Access the daily sun protection times via the free SunSmart Global UV app





A massive **THANK YOU** to our amazing *Educators* who, every year, go above and beyond to create the most magical time of the year for our *Children*. We appreciate you and hope that you enjoy some much-needed rest and recharge!





# EDUCATOR TIP

## WHEN A CHILD COMMENCES IN CARE

### Do you have new children starting at your Family Day Care?

It can be a lot to remember - all the aspects to complete when a child starts care, why not use the 'When a child commences in care' form to prompt you as to what steps are to be undertaken?

Contact the Coordination Unit and we can email you one!

Educator's Name		
Child's Name		
Start Date	/	/

As this child's new Educator, I will:	Date Actioned
Review the child's and family's details in Harmony.	/ /
Provide the family a copy of my 'Fee Schedule';	/ /
Ensure the family sign/decline any Excursion Permission and Risk Management Form' and 'Travelling in the front seat permission Form' if applicable;	/ /
Update both of my Emergency Contact Lists;	/ /
Ensure I have adequate sleeping and travel provisions for this child e.g. car <u>seat</u> , bedding etc;	/ /
Practice my 'Emergency Evacuation Plan';	/ /
Undertake a review of any Risk Management Plans;	/ /
Commence planning and observations relevant to this child.	/ /

## 2 Ingredient

# Peach Dump Cake

All you need is a tin of peaches and a packet of cake mix.

That's it. No eggs, no milk, and no fridge needed.

Mix it straight in a bowl, pop it in the oven, and you've got a warm, golden cake in 15 minutes.

Serve with custard, cream, ice cream, butter - whatever you have on hand!



# WHAT'S YOUR [WHAT-IF PLAN?]

If disaster strikes... are you ready?

**NOW** is the time to organise  
what you need in an emergency.

Getting ready for storm season isn't as scary as it sounds. It's as simple as making a basic plan if your pets are home alone, to check on your neighbours, what to do if you're separated from your family members.

...WHAT'S YOUR PLAN this storm season?



[qld.gov.au/getready](http://qld.gov.au/getready)



## Educator spotlight

# Vicki Duncan

**Name :** Vicki Duncan - Vicki's Family Day Care.

**Location:** Tully.

**How long have I been an educator:** Just over 5 years.

**What is my favourite things about being an educator:** My favourite thing about being an educator is seeing those small, every day moments turn into big learning breakthroughs. Watching a child try something for the first time, persist, and then light up with pride when they succeed. Knowing that through play, relationships, and gentle guidance, I'm helping build their confidence, curiosity, and sense of belonging.

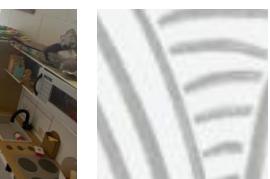
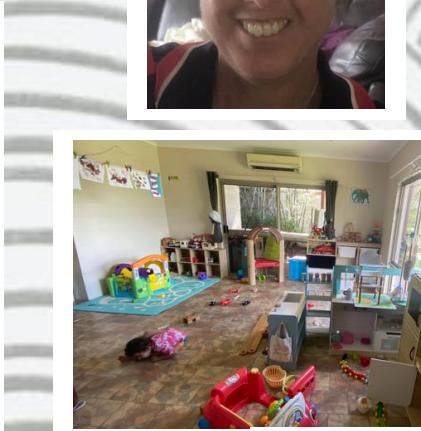
**How would I describe Vicki's Family Day Care:** Vicki's Family Day Care is a warm, nurturing and play-based learning environment where every child is valued as an individual. My service provides a safe and welcoming home-like setting that supports children's wellbeing, curiosity, and development through meaningful, hands-on experiences.

### Do I have any tips for my fellow

**educators:** relationships come first, follow the child not the plan, keep it simple, be kind to yourself, reflect often, value play, communicate with families and celebrate the little wins.

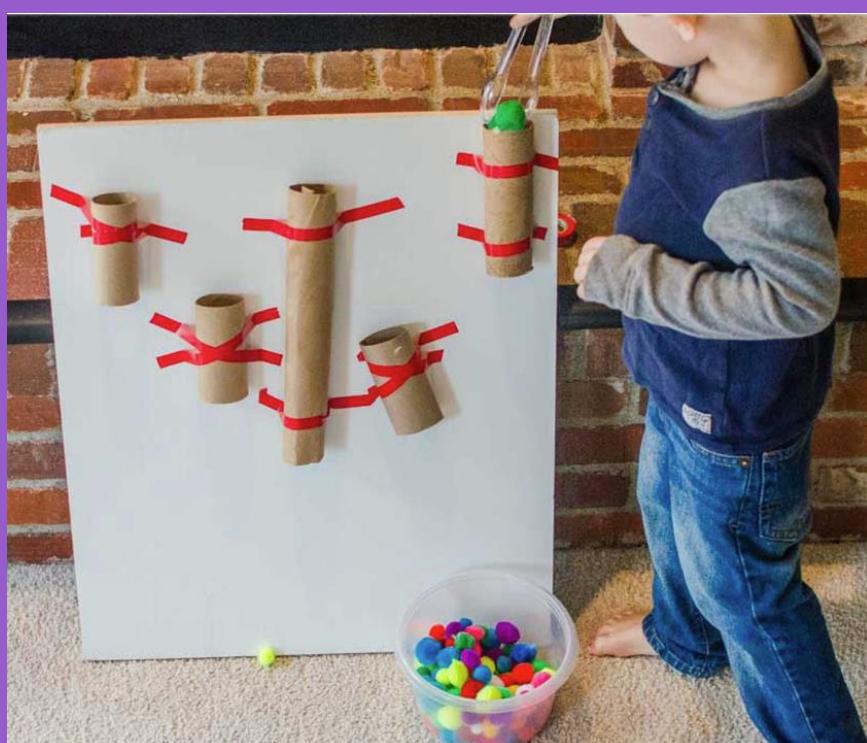
### Am I happy for other educators to reach and connect with me:

I am always happy for other educators to reach out, connect, and share ideas.



## Sustainable activity – Pom Pom Drop!

Use up all that leftover cardboard from wrapping paper and paper towel and make a Pom Pom Drop!



## Coordination



## CREATIVITY



## Problem solving

What does  
**PLAY**

teach kids?



## Focus and Concentration

## Communication



# Fine motor skills



# *Emotional regulation*

## CONFIDENCE AND INDEPENDENCE

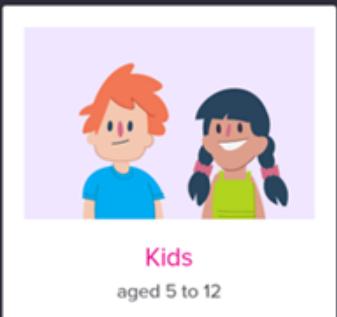


## GROSS MOTOR SKILLS

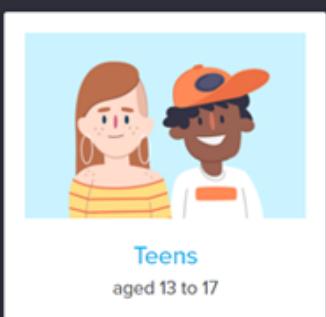


1800 55 1800

Anytime. Any Reason.



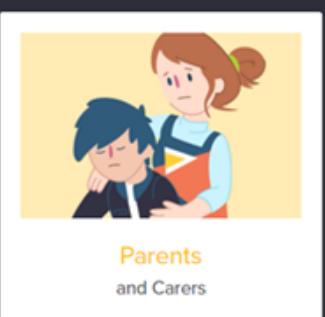
Kids  
aged 5 to 12



Teens  
aged 13 to 17



Young Adults  
aged 18 to 25



Parents  
and Carers

# THE BEST OFFENCE IS A GOOD DEFENCE

Is your home pool defence set for this summer?

Take a few minutes to check the safety of your pool barrier.

YOU NEVER KNOW, YOU COULD JUST SAVE A LIFE.

**SAFE BARRIERS      SAVE LIVES**

Visit [kidsafe.com.au](http://kidsafe.com.au) to find out how

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land upon which we work and live, the Juru people of the Birri Gubba nation, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community.

We pay our respects to Elder's past, present and emerging.

