Ballina Byron Family Day Care

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Parent Newsletter August- September 2025

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From the Manager:

We want to extend our sincere thanks to all the families who took the time to participate in our recent Child Safe Survey. In light of some of the concerning incidents within our sector, it was truly heartening to see that the overall results were extremely positive. Your feedback shows that you feel your children are safe, well-supported, and that you trust both your Educators and our Coordination Unit — something we deeply value and never take for granted. We have been working hard to implement the changes introduced by the Department of Education. As part of this ongoing process, we've recently shared three new or revised policies with you and are currently seeking your feedback. Thank you once again for your continued support and engagement as we work together to provide the safest and most nurturing environment for your children.

I also want to congratulate our Educators, Coordinator, and the entire scheme on being nominated for the Family Day Care Australia Excellence Awards. It is genuinely humbling to be recognised at a national level, and we are proud to be acknowledged for the fantastic work we do together.

Please remember that we at Ballina Byron Family Day Care maintain an open-door policy – if you have concerns, compliance issues, or questions, we are here to listen and respond. We would also love to hear about the positive stories, as from our visits, we know there are many of these. Looking forward to our continued partnership in supporting you and your children.

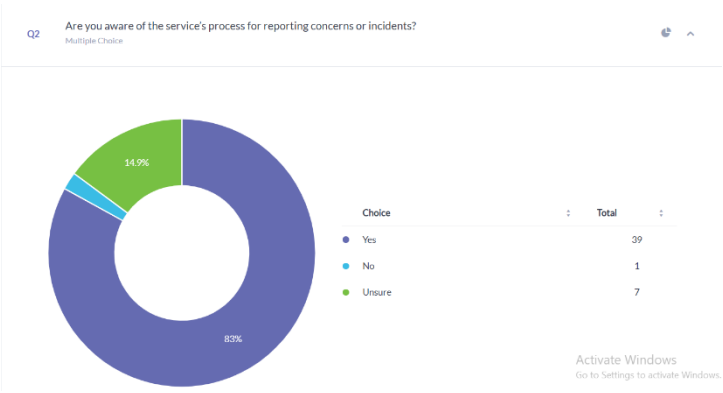
With Kindness, Sharon Foran.

NAIDOC CELEBRATION WALK 2025

This year marks the 50th year of NAIDOC Week! BBFDC Staff joined our Ballina Community on Nyangbul Country for the 2025 NAIDOC Celebration walk. It was a beautiful morning to be a part of celebrating the rich culture and history of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Child Safety Survey Results

We would like to thank all our families who recently completed our Child Safety Survey. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us ensure our service remains a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment for every child. The insights shared will guide us in strengthening our practices and maintaining the highest standards of child safety and wellbeing.



BBFDC Authorised Supervisor - Sharon Foran

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Through the survey results we have identified that some families are unaware of our process for reporting concerns or incidents. Ballina Byron Family Day Care is committed to providing a fair, transparent, and confidential process for addressing grievances and complaints. Families, educators, staff, and community members are encouraged to raise concerns, which will be managed respectfully and impartially without fear of disadvantage. Complaints should first be discussed with the person involved, and if unresolved, can be referred to the Service Manager, Management Committee, or external agencies such as the NSW Ombudsman or Department of Education. All complaints are documented, investigated promptly, and outcomes communicated, with support and assistance offered to all parties. The process is regularly reviewed to ensure continuous improvement in practice. We will also be sending out a copy of the full policy.

Northern NSW Local Health District

HOSPITALS COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES PATIENTS, VISITORS AND CARERS

Speech Pathology – Child and Adult

The speech pathology service provides inpatient and outpatient services for people with swallowing and communication difficulties including language, speech, voice and fluency.

We accept referrals from individuals, families, carers or health professionals, with the client's consent.

Child and Family Speech Pathologists work in conjunction with nursing and allied health services to provide assessment and intervention services to children with communication and swallowing disorders, and their families.

All children with communication or feeding difficulties can access this service.

Treatments may range from parental/teacher advice and support, direct home programming, regular review or individual or group therapy programs.

There is a waiting list for assessments. Please phone Ballina Community Health to speak to the Speech Pathologist.

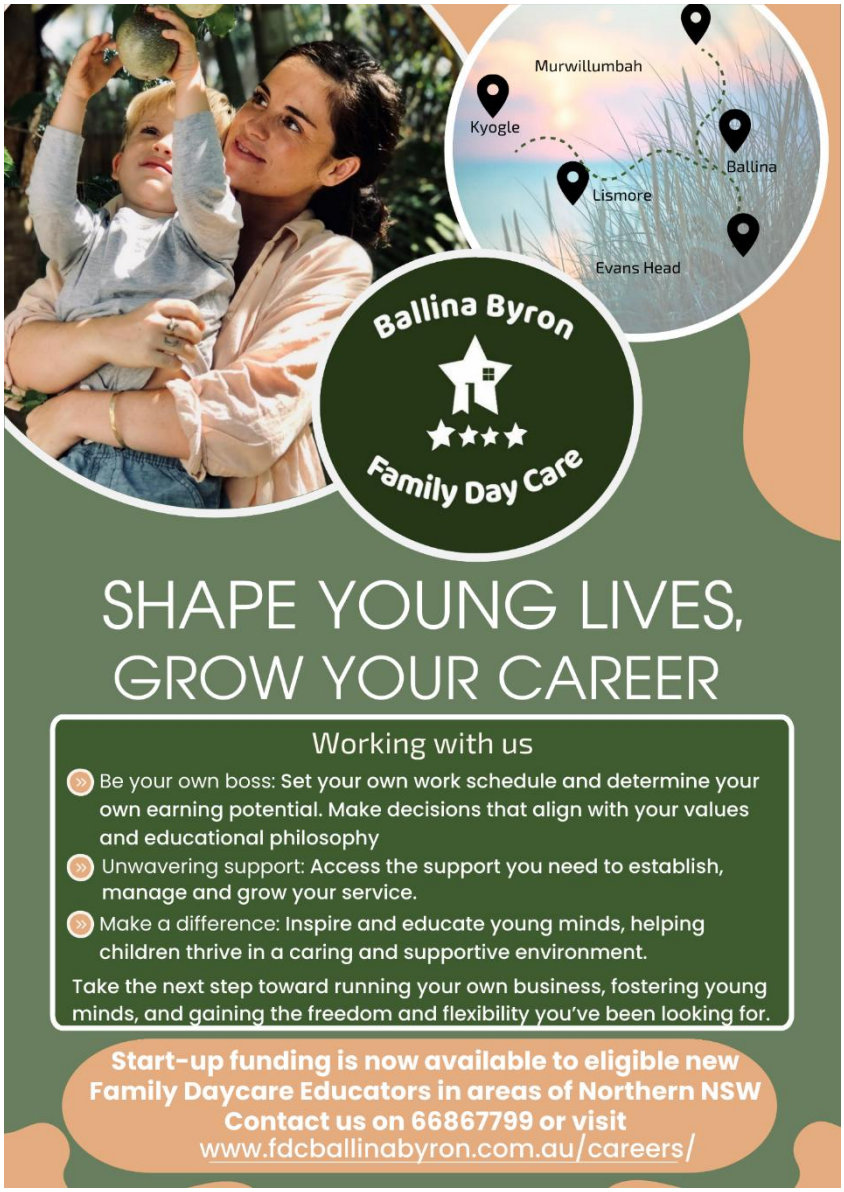
Hours: 8.30am – 4.45pm (Mon-Fri)

Contact: Phone (02) 6620 6200 Fax (02) 6620 6444

Location: Ballina Community Health, 50 Fox Street, Ballina NSW, 2478

Child Safe Standard 6

Organisations have a child-focused complaint process that is understood by children, staff, volunteers and families.
Organisations have an effective Child Safe Reporting Policy that clearly outlines obligations and processes around how to deal with different types of complaints.
Complaints are taken seriously and responded to promptly and thoroughly.
Organisations meet reporting, privacy and employment obligations.



SHAPE YOUNG LIVES, GROW YOUR CAREER

Working with us

- Be your own boss: Set your own work schedule and determine your own earning potential. Make decisions that align with your values and educational philosophy
- Unwavering support: Access the support you need to establish, manage and grow your service.
- Make a difference: Inspire and educate young minds, helping children thrive in a caring and supportive environment.

Take the next step toward running your own business, fostering young minds, and gaining the freedom and flexibility you've been looking for.

Start-up funding is now available to eligible new Family Daycare Educators in areas of Northern NSW
Contact us on 66867799 or visit
www.fdcballinabyron.com.au/careers/

Like to know more about introducing solids, family foods or fussy eating?

Starting Solids and Progressing to Family Foods

45 min video with practical ideas to support your baby learning to eat. Suitable for parents of 5-12 month olds.

Access via QR code or
healthupnorth.info/solids_familyfoods

Fuss Free Mealtimes

45 min video full of tips and ideas you can try to create adventurous eaters and fuss free mealtimes. Suitable for parents of 2-5 year olds.

Access via QR code or
healthupnorth.info/fussfree

Videos hosted by paediatric dietitian Karina Savage.

NSW GOVERNMENT

Congratulations to the following educators who were nominated for this years Educator of the Year in the FDCA Excellence Awards.

Amelia Travisany
Angela Middleton
Chrissy Cook
Erica Bednall
Julie Landrigan
Kylie McGovern
Marites Gibson
Nicole Hodgins
Sally Foran
Sandy Attwood
Sandy Clark

BBFDC Also received nominations in the Co-Ordinator of the year and Service of the Year categories.

Do you have a local business that you would like to advertise in our newsletter??

Contact our team via email
admin@fdcballinabyron.com.au

If you provide us with a flyer in PNG,JPEG or PDF format we can share in our next newsletter.

WHEN TO BEGIN CONSENT AND BODY SAFETY CONVERSATIONS

by Jayneen Sanders

This resource includes guidance on when and how you can begin conversations with children around consent and body safety.

All children are different, and you know the children in your life best. Be guided by their ability to focus and the questions they ask. These conversations are ongoing and can happen over years. Use their questions, family discussions, children's books, and situations that may occur to have open and ongoing conversations. Everyday situations that may arise can be teaching and learning opportunities. The below age groups are intended as a guide only, and you should use your judgement to determine what is age and developmentally appropriate for the child you are talking to.

Content has been adapted from Educate2Empower Publishing with permission.

Birth – 2 yrs (non-verbal)

- Use the correct terms for children's private parts from day 1.
- Tell children what you are doing to their body and why e.g. 'I'm just putting your socks on so your feet will be warm.'
- Validate their feelings, e.g. 'I can see you are sad, but I need to go shopping. I'll be back very soon. Gran will take good care of you.'
- Note children's body language, e.g. if you are playing a tickling game and you can see from their body language they don't like it, stop immediately.
- Ensure health professionals talk to children about what they are doing to their body and always ask for consent before entering your child's body boundary.

2 yrs – 3 yrs (verbal)

- Introduce the term 'body boundary' — the invisible space around our bodies. Explain that everyone needs to ask for consent before entering another person's body boundary.
- Let children know they can say 'No' to kisses and hugs if they want to. How they greet another person is always their choice.
- Let children know they can say, 'No' to tickling games and inform adults (and other children) when your child says 'Stop!' they need to stop immediately.
- Ensure health professionals ask for children's consent.
- Let children have choice and agency wherever possible, and if it is safe to do so.

3 yrs – 6 yrs +

- Continue to reinforce the concepts of body boundaries and consent.
- Formally (and over a number of sessions) teach children about: feeling safe and feeling unsafe; early warning signs; a safety team; the difference between secrets and surprises; the difference between safe and unsafe touch; private parts are private and what to do if they are touched inappropriately, see inappropriate images or someone asks them to touch their private parts.

It is never too early to begin these conversations.

LET'S END CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE
ONE TALK AT A TIME

Australian Government
National Office for Child Safety

EDUCATE2 EMPOWER PUBLISHING

www.ChildSafety.gov.au/one-talk-time
www.e2epublishing.info

Ballina Byron Family Day Care Educational Leader –Victoria Farrow

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The Educational leader is supported and leads the development and implementation of the educational program and assessment and planning cycle. (NQS Element 7.2.2 Educational Leadership)

As the Educational Leader in Ballina Byron Family Day Care I have an influential role in inspiring, motivating, affirming and also challenging and extending the practice and pedagogy of our Educators. The role is a collaborative endeavour involving inquiry and reflection, which can significantly impact on the important work Educators do with children and families.

My role as the educational Leader is primarily to:

- Collaborate with Educators and provide curriculum direction and guidance
- Support Educators to effectively implement the cycle of planning to enhance programs and practices
- Lead the development and implementation of an effective educational program in the service
- Ensure children's learning and development are guided by the learning outcomes of the Early Years Learning Framework and/or the Framework for School Age Care

As Educational Leader I also have a significant role in:

- Guiding and developing Educators and families' understandings about play and leisure-based learning, and the significance of the early years in the education continuum for children
- Building the knowledge, skills and professionalism of educators
- Building a culture of professional inquiry with educators, coordinators and staff members to develop professional knowledge, reflect on practice and generate new ideas

What does my support as Educational Leader look like?

- Mentoring and Supporting Educators/Coordinators understanding of all areas of Educational Program and Practice (NQS QA1)
- Supporting Educators ongoing Professional Development through an annual Training Calendar and sharing of information regarding available professional development in our area
- Assisting Educators/Coordinators to understand and implement reflective practices
- Induction Training and weekly support visits for new Educators
- Developing resources to support Educators understanding in assessing and documenting children's learning
- Supporting Families understanding of the Educational Program and value of Play based Learning through sharing of information
- One on One training and guidance to meet all areas of the Assessment & Planning Cycle
- Individual feedback of Educators documentation regarding children's learning
- Leading Critical Reflection discussions