

### WELCOME

## Meet our new Director

Acorn Child Care Centre on Branyan Street has a new director! Jasmine Jeffrey took up the new position on the Tuesday after Easter and worked for two days with Cassandra finding out where everything is kept and learning everyone's names. Jasmine has moved from Brisbane where she was director of a centre for five years. "I wanted to move to Bundaberg to be close to family and I'm so excited to be part of Acorn Child Care Centre" said Jasmine.

Jasmine is passionate about improving quality, working with the staff and providing the very best possible service for families. At her centre in Brisbane, Jasmine was able to facilitate numerous improvements and increase occupancy. She is already missed by her old centre.

Please make yourself known to Jasmine as she begins the daunting task of becoming acquainted with all our families.



### EDUCA

## Have you used our new app?

The Educa app will allow you to view all your child's pictures, learning stories, observations and "What we did today" at the touch of your finger. You can even reply and send messages and photos back to your child's room, allowing Educators to further extend learning. You will also be able to review and see all centre policies, newsletters, centre updates and general information.

If you would like help setting up the app please see your director or room educators.



## KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE FROM SEXUAL ABUSE

### Part 1

Although it is great for children to learn protective behaviours, experience has taught us that actions by adults can be more effective than relying on children to protect themselves from sexual abuse. This article and the ones to follow will focus on ways adults can protect children. Clear communication is a cornerstone of effective prevention. Make sure other adults and older children understand the expectations younger children will have of them and how their cooperation will help keep children safe.

When teaching children about others' behaviour towards them, use concrete examples.

Remember that in as many as 90% of situations where a child is sexually abused/harmed, the child (and often their family) knows the adult, youth or child who is acting in an abusive way. When talking with children about child sexual abuse, use examples and situations that make that reality clear. For example:

- "What if you are at a friend's house and her older brother asks you to play a game that makes you feel weird or

uncomfortable or involves something like touching or taking off your clothes?"

- "Sometimes relatives, like grandparents or uncles or cousins, don't understand the rules and touch kids in ways they're not supposed to. If that ever happens, be sure to tell Mum or Dad or another adult you trust so that we can help that person learn the rules."

#### Model healthy boundaries

Sometimes we unintentionally confuse children by insisting they hug Grandma even when they don't want to, or by saying, "Do whatever the baby sitter tells you to do." Help your children practice setting healthy boundaries. When children tell us they don't want to hug and kiss everyone at a family gathering, support them by helping them find another way to show respect to family members (such as shaking hands, just saying goodbye). Model saying "no" and assure your children that their "no" will be respected. If others disrespect or ignore your child's limits, it's your job to explain your family rules and insist on your child's rights to set boundaries.

If you have any questions or concerns in relation to this article please contact Phoenix House on 4153 4299.

## ACORN ON BRANYAN

### Bundaberg City

The Wallaby class has had an exciting term so far! We have been learning about ourselves, our feelings and appropriate ways to express them. This was extended by learning about the community of Bundaberg that we live in or near. We looked at some familiar places throughout our region and the children were encouraged to discuss the ones that they knew about or visited with their families. During this time, we painted and drew about these experiences and they are all on display on the notice boards in our room.

We also created our own city of Bundaberg, piece by piece. We started by making our own house using recycled boxes. The next day we created shops and other important buildings in the community, such as the hospital, police station, fire station, post office and the Anzac statue across the road. Next was the Burnett River with one of the spanning bridges, the Marina at Burnett Heads complete with boats, and the Botanical gardens with trees, flowers, a lake and the railway track.

Miss Christie pieced this all together to form 'Our City of Bundaberg'. As the children in the class were included in every step of the creation they couldn't wait to be able to play with it! We added toy people and vehicles to let the fun begin!



**Bundaberg City:** Our city re-created by some of our budding builders

### Reminders

Pigeon holes in both foyers contain important notices and upcoming events, please remember to check them weekly. They are presented alphabetically using the children's surnames.

New hat pockets are also up and running. Please remember to put them on your children in the mornings as well as applying sunscreen and then return their hat to their pockets in the afternoons as you leave the centre.

### Cockatoo room

The Cockatoo children have been busy preparing for, and celebrating, Easter.

We have been learning about this cultural celebration through songs, video clips, stories, and craft experiences. The Cockatoo children have been exercising their fine motor skills, colour recognition, language, visual discrimination skills and creativity as they participate in the Easter craft activities.

We even got to show off some of our creations in the fantastic Easter bonnet parade!



**Easter Crafts:** Some crafty creations from the Cockatoo room