

A note from our Children's Services Manager

Hi everyone I would like to introduce myself to those who have not met me yet through phone calls, emails or in person. I am Cindy Warren and I oversee all things children related at Open Arms Care Inc. (Family Day Care, OAC Urunga OSHC and OAC Bellingen OSHC).



As you can imagine at the moment and in the last 18 months we have had a lot to interpret, learn and manage with the concerning COVID-19 outbreak and the issues and changes this brings with it. As well as following all directions from the Department of Health, Department of Education and our own policies built from the rules and regulations of our industry, I offer support to our educators to ensure they are being compliant to support families and children in their services.

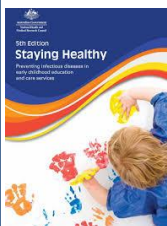
My role is to provide guidance to Educators in concerns they may have, assist them in setting up an inviting and educational service and ensuring all services and educators are compliant in meeting all quality areas of the National Quality Framework as well as following rules and regulations set out by the Departments. I am also available to all parents, guardians and families if they have concerns or questions concerning their child whilst in care so please feel free to contact me at any time.

I can be contacted on 0439665240 or through email, csmanger@openarms.org.au

COVID-19

Please know we are following all guidance from the Department of Health and Department of Education when we send out notifications to all families and the Educators. OAC understands this is a trying time and will endeavour to assist you in anyway we can, but we will not go against current health advice. This information is regularly updated and can be accessed on the website link below:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/early-childhood-education/coronavirus/advice-for-services-and-providers>



Useful Websites for Children's health and wellbeing

Staying healthy in childcare. 5th Edition. This is where educators will look to see what the exclusion periods for children who are ill are.

https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/_files_nhmrc/publications/attachments/ch55_staying_healthy_5th_edition_150602.pdf



Introducing the Family Day Care Coordinator

Hello to all of our service parents and families,
My name is Brittany Hardy and I am the Family Day Care Coordinator at Open Arms Care Inc. I have 10 years' experience working in the Early Childhood Education and Care industry and have worked for Open Arms Care for the past 3.

Although I have not met many of you in person, I have met your wonderful children and get the pleasure of spending time with them regularly when I conduct my support and monitoring visits to educator's homes/services. A huge factor as to why I love my job so much is because of the opportunity to make a difference in children's lives and I get to support others to do the same.

I am also the Educational Leader for Family Day Care, in this role it is my job to lead the development and implementation of the Educational Programs and guide Educators in their planning and reflection.

The past 18 months have seen us through some challenging and unpredictable times which I must say our FDC Educators have absolutely championed through and I congratulate them as they continue to work and adapt to all the changes. I would also like to thank all of you, our families, for your patience and understanding as we navigate through this pandemic, I acknowledge the difficulties and struggles that come with this current situation and would like to let you know that we are here to support you with any questions you may have, provide resources and information and refer you to relevant support organisations.

I can be contacted by phoning our office on 02 6655 2650 or by emailing me at

familydaycare@openarms.org.au

I look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you 😊

Kind regards,

Brittany

Friendly Reminders...

DAILY CHECKLIST

- Water bottles.
- Hats - legionnaire or bucket style.
- Spare clothing – at least two sets, weather appropriate.
- Dummies and comforters – required for children at sleep time.
- PLEASE ENSURE ALL BELONGINGS ARE CLEARLY LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.

IMMUNISATIONS

Please remember to let us know of any updates to your children's immunisation statement by sending us a copy to familydaycare@openarms.org.au

MEDICATIONS

Please ensure all medication is handed directly to your educators and not left in children's bags. Medication Forms must be completed and signed prior to educators being able to administer any medications.

PARENT SURVEYS

Parent Survey forms will be sent out in the coming months in the form of a survey monkey and we always welcome any comments, suggestions or concerns you may have. Your valuable feedback assists us in our services continuous improvement.

Who is Open Arms Care INC?

Open Arms Care Incorporated is a not-for-profit, community based organisation supporting the local Bellingen Shire and surrounding areas by providing services to;

- Children through Before and After School Care, Vacation Care and Family Day Care.
- Ageing persons through services delivered under the Commonwealth Home Support Programme including Meals on Wheels, Domestic Assistance, Social Support Individual and Flexible Respite.

A bit about Children's Services

Open Arms Care Inc. are community-based quality early childhood education services covering Mid North Coast, providing professional and approved care for children within Family Day Care and Out of School Hours Care services.

The Service is responsible for the effective operation of all components of Family Day Care, including recruiting, training and supporting educators, monitoring care and providing advice, support and information for parents. They also assist parents to select an appropriate educator for their child. A Family Day Care Service can provide flexible hours of care including long day care, part-time or casual care before and after school care and care during school holidays, over night or on weekends. Services may provide respite care and other non-work-related child care in line with Priority of Access Guidelines.

Family Day Care is aimed primarily at children from birth to five years but can assist primary school children and may assist older children in special or emergency situations.

Out of School Hours Care can be utilised for either Before School Care, After School Care and for Vacation Care and assists families with School aged children. Services are at St Mary's Primary School in Bellingen or Urunga Public School in Urunga.