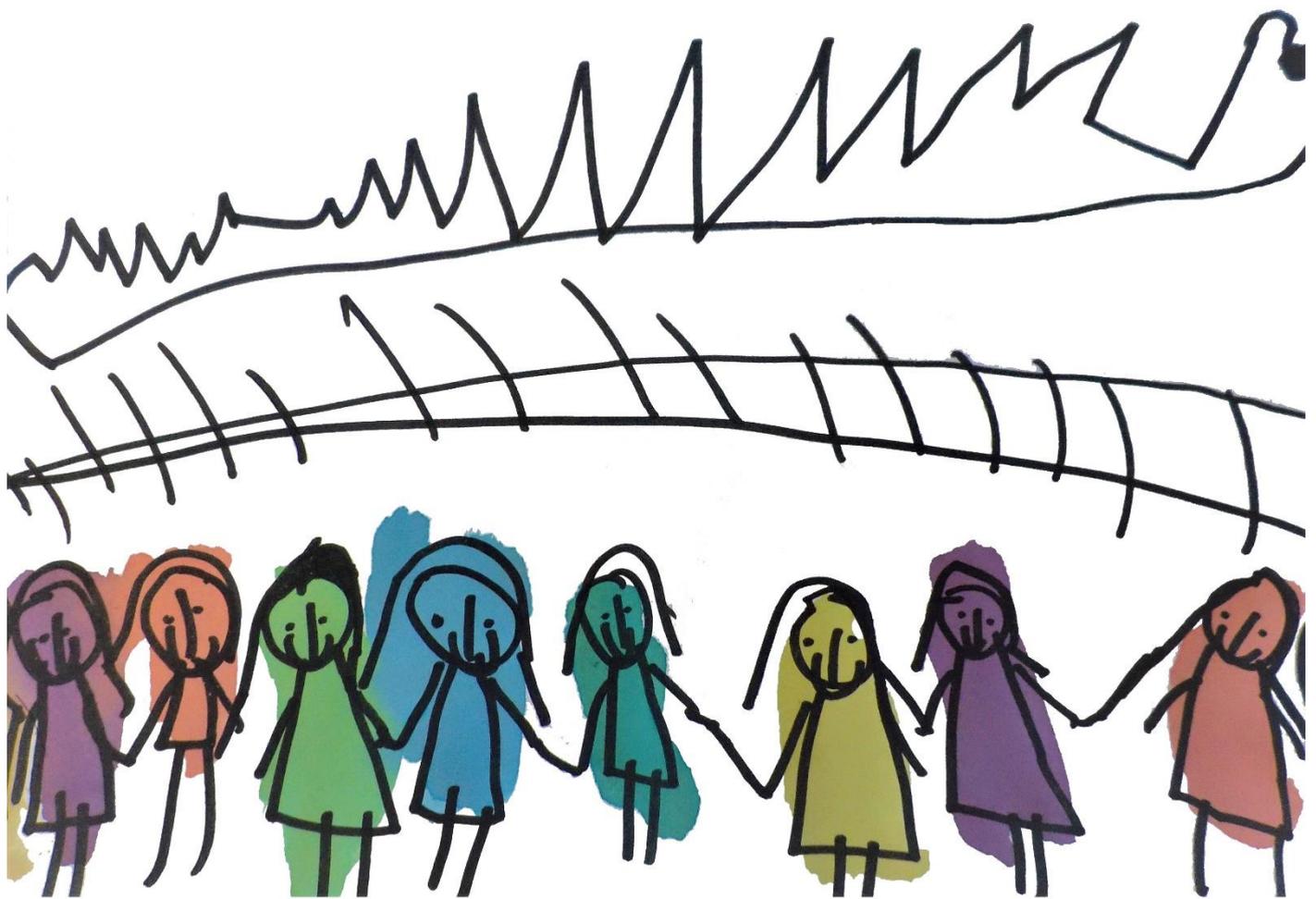


Inclusion is...

www.inclusionsupportqld.org.au



Artwork by Maddie, 4 years – KU Killara Park Preschool

The Australian Government funded Inclusion Agency in QLD is managed by KU Children's Services, in partnership with Cairns and District Child Care Development Association Inc. as part of the Inclusion Support Program



Welcome to Inclusion Support QLD's fourth *Inclusion Is...* for 2020

With all that is going on just now who are you looking to for guidance and who are children relying on for support and consistency? We would like to acknowledge the valuable work each of you are doing every day in spite of the pandemic so go ahead and celebrate Educators' Day!

For Reflection...

How do you collaborate with children to make the decisions that generate change in your service?



Equipment in Focus...

Introducing the Movin' Seat Wedge! This triangular wedge-shaped inflatable cushion is designed to promote correct seated posture. The wedge shape is particularly helpful for children who have low muscle tone. These cushions are also an effective way to provide children with sensory input whilst they are seated, as the inflatable material allows children to be able to wriggle. Can provide support to enable a child to access and participate in seated experiences with their peers as well as provide sensory input to help calm or increase levels of arousal to enable increased opportunities for engagement and participation. Please note that all specialist equipment must be recommended and used in conjunction with a child's treating therapist.



Spotlight on the Portal...

Now you have portal access you can develop your Strategic Inclusion Plan (SIP) online. A SIP recognises a service's current inclusive capacity and capability and outlines objectives for developing inclusive practices. These strengths and goals are written into the **Service Profile** (second tile on the top row of your home screen). Included in the Service Profile is information about the number of children enrolled in the service broken down into the cohorts the program supports; details about educators' confidence to include children with additional needs; and the service's community outreach strategy. The key questions are:

1. How does your service promote learning experiences, interactions and participation to build on children's strengths and encourage involvement?
2. How will your service engage with families in the community who do not currently access ECEC services?

Your Inclusion Professional (IP) is here to help guide reflective conversations with you and your whole team, to best capture your strengths and goals. For further information go to the [ISP User Guide – section 2: Strategic Inclusion Plan](#).

That's Innovative...

Does your service have concerns about educator wellbeing that is impacting on the inclusion of all children, especially during these uncertain times? Have you looked at Innovative Solutions Support (ISS) providers who can support you to overcome this barrier, but don't know where to start? Have you considered developing an ISS project? This funding stream could provide your educators with the support they need to build their capacity and confidence by providing a unique, tailor-made approach, to meet the specific needs of your service, and provide you with the long-lasting changes that your service needs. If you think an ISS project could support your service, get in touch with your inclusion professional today.

Early Childhood Educators' Day September 2 2020



In the challenging circumstances of 2020 early childhood educators have been recognised as essential workers. This year the theme for Early Childhood Educators' Day is '**Essential and I know it**', which acknowledges our everyday heroes and the wonderful work educators do by being adaptable and resilient in difficult circumstances; keeping families informed and supported; and ensuring children are happy and safe. Educators do all this in their important role and allow families to continue working. This year's celebrations will be even more significant and extra special as we consider how essential you really are.

Source: <https://earlychildhoodeducatorsday.org.au/>

How are you going to say



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bH9IfToC5hY>

How is your service celebrating recognising the wonderful work of early childhood educators? To help plan your celebration there are some great resources:

<https://earlychildhoodeducatorsday.org.au/>

<https://childcarealliance.org.au/news/79-celebrate-early-childhood-educators-day>

As we know, the early childhood education and care sector has experienced a great deal of disruption and change recently. For ideas about supporting educators' health and wellbeing there are some great resources here:

<https://beyou.edu.au/fact-sheets/wellbeing/staff-wellbeing>

Indigenous Literacy Day September 5 2020

The Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF) is a national not-for-profit charity focused on improving literacy levels in very remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. There are many ways of supporting Indigenous Literacy Day, including hosting a *Great Book Swap* at your service.

<https://www.indigenoussliteracyfoundation.org.au/indigenous-literacy-day>

Father's Day September 6 2020

Father's Day gives educators another chance to have a conversation with children about family diversity. Make sure you create an inclusive Father's Day celebration that can be enjoyed by all children. This could be by inviting special male friends or role models as well as fathers. They could be family members like an uncle, grandfather or stepdad, or perhaps a sports coach or friend of the family. When you're organising activities to mark the occasion, try to leave it open for children to design for their chosen person rather than specifying 'To Dad' by default.

RU OK? Day September 12 2020

It's our national day of action when we remind Australians that every day is the day to ask, "Are you OK?" if someone in your world is struggling with life's ups and downs.

<https://www.ruok.org.au/join-r-u-ok-day>

International Day of Peace September 21 2020

This is a United Nations observance day that is normally focused on non-violence and pausing conflict. This year though it is looking at ways we can come together through one of the worst public health crises in history; how we can stand together and change the planet for the better. There are some great ideas for doing this, even if you are in isolation, in the PDF linked below:

https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/idp_what_you_can_do_to_help_-_one-pager.pdf

International Day of Sign Languages September 23 2020

Launched in 2018 with the theme 'With sign language, everyone is included!' the International Day of Sign Languages is held during the National Week of Deaf People (September 19-25). The World Federation of the Deaf is setting a Global Leaders' Challenge this year to promote the use of sign languages. Go to <https://wfdeaf.org/iwdeaf2020/> for more information about how you can challenge your leaders!

National Child Protection Week September 6-12 2020

National Child Protection Week has been coordinated by NAPCAN, with the support of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs since 1990. The campaign aims to engage and educate all Australians to understand they have a part to play in keeping our children and young people safe from violence, abuse and neglect. More information [here](#).

Did you know?

A range of resources are available to support services to provide inclusive environments and programs for all children, on our website: <https://www.inclusionsupportqld.org.au/educator-resources-to-support-inclusion/inclusion-resources>

Included is the Inclusion Matters app, which can be downloaded [here for Apple](#) or [here for Android devices](#). Sometimes the most helpful resources are the ones that help us to reflect on our practice and support us to think differently.