



Endeavour Family Day Care is located in Cooktown. Cooktown is a small town at the mouth of the Endeavour River, on Cape York Peninsula in Far North Queensland where James Cook beached his ship, the Endeavour for repairs in 1770.

Cooktown is the northernmost town on the east coast of Australia with a population of 2,339, with a wide geographic catchment consisting of local aboriginal/ non aboriginal communities such as Hopevale, Wujal Wujal and townships of Lakeland, Laura, Rossville, Ayton and surrounding rural properties within the Cooktown region.

Endeavour Family Day Care was established in 2002 by the South Cairns Scheme. In 2003/2004 Endeavour Family Day Care was re-established in Cooktown and auspiced by the Cooktown Kindergarten Association Inc.

In July 2008 Family Day Care Association of Queensland (FDCAQ) took over the operation of Endeavour Family Day Care Scheme.

Endeavour Family Day Care currently has two educators who care full time with no vacancies. Each educator has an understanding of the community and the requirements of families.

All educators hold qualifications in CPR, Senior First Aid, Anaphylaxis and Asthma Management and Positive Notice blue card for Child Related Employment.

Endeavour Family Day Care is single co-ordination unit this roll is Service Manager, Educational Leader and Nominated Service Manager. Being a single Service means the Service Manager is responsible for administrative systems and communication channels to ensure the effective operation of the service, ensures documented policies and procedures, legislative requirements and quality frameworks are followed, recruit and induct using organisational procedures, manage all financial responsibilities of the service including preparing and monitoring of the budget, manage self and educators in



accordance with FDCAQ Values, plan workload to ensure competing priorities are prioritised and achieved.

Endeavour Family Day Care values and believe in a home-like atmosphere within a caring and stimulating environment in which all children can feel safe and secure. Each child is a valued individual with unique interests and strengths and we give children the freedom to choose activities they are most interested in.

Educators guide children to make positive choices about their learning and development. Developmental play enables children to learn through physical “hands on” experiences such as doing, experimenting, predicting, achieving and making mistakes.

We believe all children, families and staffs have a right to be treated with fairness and equity, have the same opportunities for participation and are accepted as valued members of the community. Relationships are important to a child’s health, well-being and development.

Through current theories, professional knowledge and understanding of a child’s learning and developmental practices we aim to enrich each child’s experiences so that they develop a sense of self-achievement.

Through implementation of the Early Years Learning Framework we build on children’s interests and knowledge as individuals within the group and our wider community. We look at developing the child as a whole by linking their learning and environment to the Early Years Learning Framework 5 Learning Outcomes, principles and practices.

We encourage self-help skills and promote a positive attitude to encourage high self-worth, as we believe if a child is confident they will have the ability to do anything they set their minds to, now and into the future.

We recognise the valuable contribution that our community can make towards the holistic development of each child. We do this by fostering links between the children, their families and the community.

All children and families of all abilities, religion, culture or linguistically diverse backgrounds are treated fairly and are valued and included in all aspects of the service and the community.



We acknowledge and value the differing social and cultural backgrounds of children in our care and the experiences these bring from the home environment. Respecting the needs, feelings and property of others is a shared practice which assists in the development of compassion in others regardless of age.

Attracting, engaging and retaining quality Early Childhood staff with the required formal qualifications of a two year diploma or a one year certificate III in Children's Services has become progressively difficult as Early Childhood standards and requirements have rightfully increased considerably, while unfortunately working conditions for Educators have declined and wages barely improved from years ago.

Our Service Request for Care list for childcare grows in our community each year, we are faced with a shortage of Family Day Care Educators who are prepared to commit to training, study, and workload and follow strict regulations in their own homes.

As the population grows in Cooktown more and more families have started using some form of ECEC more than in the past due to the economics. This is due to families not being able to survive on one income to support household's expenses. More and more housing is becoming available in the local community allowing accommodation for more families from aboriginal communities and low income to source work, enrol children in school and child care to enable work prospects.

Working families are more likely to require more ECEC in the community in the future due to growth of town and wider community. There will always be a request for care from police, teachers, doctors and other government bodies due to work locations. A large percentage of children in care each year are from these types of families.

We feel the amount of time a child spends in ECEC provides a foundation that guides children intellectually, socially, and emotionally. The experiences, opportunities, and direction a 3 or 4 year old is given contributes greatly to the person they become as an adult.

Over the years request for quality care and education has grown with the changes in cultures with the increased representation of women in the workforce, two income families, single parents, economic challenges. All these key factors play an important role on influencing a parent's decision as to whether they work or stay at home. Endeavour Family Day Care educators provide quality care, flexibility and affordability to families. Educators have an understanding of local culture and knowledge of the indigenous community. This is seen as culturally safe and tends to be used by families in this community.

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We believe that children that attend early learning programs of poor quality show poorer outcomes when entering school, particularly when poor quality programs are combined with long hours of attendance or poorer home environments.

Working families compromise child care with friends and families due to not being able to secure a vacancy in FDC or LDC. Cost plays a large role in the decision the families make about child care not always the quality the children will be receiving.