



## Meet Our Family Day Care Educators

### Bex, Waverley Family Day Care Educator

#### Tell us what you have learnt about yourself in your role as a Family Day Care educator.

I have learnt that I can and like wearing many 'hats'; as a business owner I am an accountant handling tax, a writer creating learning stories, a community worker nurturing my relationships with children and support within my families. I can be independent and offer a bespoke service while still be part of the WFDC team sharing and learning new things. I have loved the ability to create a community with the families in my service.

#### What qualities and skills do you need to have as a Family Day Care educator?

Strong communication with both children and parents, the ability to juggle and to think on your feet, as there is always something happening and there is only you, so you need to be an independent worker.

#### What challenges have you had working from home?

As my own children have gotten older I have had to learn to adapt, adding school runs etc and striving to make it work. It can also be difficult to manage my time out of hours to meet with parents, complete paperwork and tasks.

#### How have you been able to help the community by providing this service?

People see me in the park with a group of children and I have been asked for tips and community links. I am an information center for families.

**"I have loved the ability to create a community with the families in my service."**

#### Tell us a little bit about yourself

I am originally from England and have worked with children for 30 years. Before working with Waverley Family Day Care for the past 10 years, I was a teacher in a preschool and have completed my NNEB Diploma.

#### Why did you become a Family Day Care Educator?

Because it meant I could work and be with my children at home while professionally, I could continue to do what I love and work with under 5's.

#### What has been the most rewarding part of your role?

The children I have met and the families I feel I have supported. I know what it feels like to be away from extended family overseas, this has enabled me to build a community and help families socialize and connect with one another.

#### What modifications have you made to your home in order to set up your Family Day Care?

A self-closure on the back gate, safety glass contact on windows, stair gates, safety clip on doors as well as steadily increasing my equipment and resources over time.

#### What have been the financial benefits operating a Family Day Care?

Initially my own children were in my care so I had no external care costs, the ability to set my own fees and hours, and the fact that I do earn more per hour than working in other early childhood settings are all beneficial.

#### What have been the benefits of joining a not for profit, local government service? Why did you choose Waverley Family Day Care?

It has been great to have access to play sessions, garden excursions and opportunities to collaborate face to face with other professionals at Waverley Family Day Care. They have been helpful with placing families in my care off their waitlist when needed and provide high quality support.

#### Describe a typical day.

7:40- set up outside space, 8-10am- Children arrive, interest based experiences to help with separation transitions ('hero activities'), 10-11:30am- Excursion in community, 11:30am- Games/group time/cognitive play, 12pm- lunch (families provide), 1pm- stories/song/group times/discussions, 1:30pm- sleep/rest, 3pm- afternoon tea, 3:30pm- garden time/sandpit/digging, 4:30pm- Inside for dancing/yoga/music, 5pm- pick up time.