



## North East get together for Positive Psychology...

In term 2 the North East Hub group came together to do combined training on Positive Psychology through TafeSA over three days scheduled around OSHC hours. Positive Psychology focuses on people's strengths and how they can be increased in various aspects of our lives.

The workshops covered the following content:

- Introduction to positive psychology
- Positive Meaning
- Positive Engagement
- Positive Relationships
- Positive Emotion
- Positive Accomplishment

The positive Psychology course was very interesting and all staff found something out of the day and we would recommend it for other services who were interested. It has informed my practice as a director and for our staff team. We now spend much more time as a staff team focusing on positive stories and looking for children's strengths and while behaviour management is still part of what we do, we are beginning to reframe those interactions to build up the child's strengths rather than focus on what they are not doing right for the entire interaction. It's a process and there is some getting used to it but with some children we are already seeing some benefits.

Tafe have a number of training sessions focused directly on OSHC services now in their training calendar and as the organiser I found Tafe was very helpful with negotiating times and places to complete the training. The course is usually a 2 day course but to assist us they spread it over 3 days so it would fall outside of OSHC hours so more of my staff could attend. By doing the course through our hub group we also saved money on the training as it was a set fee for the course to be run and that fee was able to be spread over enough people that each service received around a 40% discount per person.

It was a great experience and was really nice to collaborate and combine with other services for these 3 days.

*Jonathon Measday, Keithcot Kings OSHC Director*

## Nature Weaving at Torrensville....

We are lucky enough to have a native, veggie and succulent gardens adjacent to our OSHC building at Torrensville Primary School.

It is a great place for children to play, explore and learn and also for us to source valuable resources!

We had a huge collection of wool donated to the OSHC. I printed out a page from Pinterest with stick/wool activity inspiration for the children in their craft inspiration folder. The children were keen to find sticks in the garden, the Educators assisted the children to make their loom to weave on and away they went!

The younger children did find the fine motor skills involved a challenge and the older students were really supportive and helped the younger students out. We found the activity to be quite meditative and realised it





was an activity that we could continue over an extended period of time. We even extended it to cardboard looms that the children cut from our recycled materials box and made round designs using paper plates as our loom. We realised that we could weave with almost anything! Our next project is to use natural materials and weave it through our fence on the edge of the garden. Here is some weaving inspiration photos!

*Georgie Cosson, Torrensville Primary School OSHC Assistant Director*

## Play dough in the slow cooker....

### Ingredients:

- 2 cups flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup salt
- 4 tbsp. cream of tartar
- 2 tbsp. oil
- 1-2 tsp food colouring
- 2 cups water



### Method:

1. Combine flour, salt and cream of tartar in a bowl
2. In a separate bowl, combine the water, oil and food colouring.
3. Pour dry ingredients mix into the slow cooker bowl, add wet ingredients mix and combine thoroughly.
4. Place tea towel under lid and cook on HIGH for 45-60 minutes, stirring often for the first half hour of cooking time, then once or twice for remaining cooking time.
5. Dough will be done when it forms and no longer sticks to the sides of your slow cooker.
6. Remove mixture, knead and place in container to cool.
7. When cool, store in fridge in a plastic airtight container.
  - **This makes 1kg of playdough**
  - **Add glitter for extra sparkle if desired.**

## News from the Educations Standards Board .....

Who is the Education Standards Board (ESB) I hear you ask? This is the new abbreviated name for EECSRSB (Education and Early Childhood Services Regulations and Standards Board) – the regulatory body in South Australia. A review, commissioned by Minister Susan Close recommended that a shorter name be adopted for everyday use. Phew – what a relief!

OSHCsa regularly meets with the ESB to identify trends and issues around assessment and regulation. Here are some of the things which arose from our last meeting:

- There have been some issues in several services lately where medical records for children in the service are not being kept up-to-date. Assessment officers recommend services put a plan in place whereby medical records are checked annually and either updated or signed by parent to say they are still current and applicable.
- Assessment officers are now feeding their assessment feedback straight into the IT system used by the ESB. Services can now also feed straight into this system. As it is new, please report any issues you may be experiencing from doing this with either OSHCsa or the ESB (love this new name! So quick and easy.)

- Assessment officers have reported that service personnel need to be more forceful and use more clarity when providing feedback regarding their assessment and rating. It is apparently not very clear in many cases. They request that services produce more targeted feedback with clear evidence for their assertions.
- OSHCSa and assessment officers are forming a small working party to discuss in detail issues regarding area one – specifically about the programming and documenting of learning for ‘each child’ in the service. OSHCSa feels there are inconsistencies in how this is being rated and that services are still focusing too much on this – which detracts from the relationships and quality of the service.

## Clarity around First Aid Qualifications .....

First Aid qualifications is another area where there tends to be confusion. When planning around this service management should understand very clearly what the requirements are – and what is best practice.

The Education and Care Regulations state that one person must have a current approved first aid qualification at all times. And someone needs a current approved anaphylaxis qualification at all times. And someone needs a current approved asthma qualification at all times. This can be the same person, or different people. And this means there needs to be an extra person with all three current approved qualifications to cover when the others go on breaks, or leave early with illness. So clearly, you can’t just have one person or you will not be covered at all times.

However, some services believe they *need* to get all staff qualified in these three areas. OR all the qualified staff *need* to have these first aid qualifications. Or all the Certified Supervisors *must* have these three qualifications. This is not necessary – but many services undertake this to strive for best practice. And that is fine – but be clear about what is the requirement so that in times of difficulty you can problem solve much easier. If your certified supervisor’s First Aid certificate has recently expired and they need to be in charge of a session next week – they don’t need to rush off and do the First Aid course on the weekend if there are other people working that shift on the day who have a First Aid Qualification as well as the asthma and anaphylaxis certificates. A Certified Supervisor does not automatically have to have a current approved first aid qualification. Similarly, they don’t need to be qualified – but there must be other people on the site at all times who do meet these requirements.

Which Certificate meets the requirement for all three – First Aid, Asthma and Anaphylaxis??

When booking first aid courses for educators, be clear as to what you require and what the qualification covers. Just because the course addresses asthma and anaphylaxis in the content does not make it a “current approved qualification” in asthma or anaphylaxis.

The course code for the approved qualification which meets the requirement for a current approved qualification in all three areas is - **HLTAID004 Provide an emergency first aid response in an education and care setting**. Alternatively educators may do the approved qualifications separately. For a list of ACECQA’s approved First Aid Qualifications go to their website: <http://www.acecqa.gov.au/first-aid-qualifications-and-training> . In the dropdown box highlight the ‘First Aid Qualifications’ option.

Included with this newsletter is also a Fact Sheet from the Education Standards Board (ESB) which points out that certificates may not be current if the CPR component is not updated annually. When selecting an approved training provider and first aid qualification this may be something to take into consideration.

### Award Conditions

Another thing to consider when planning which educators act as the service’s trained first aiders is the payment of a First Aid Levy under the relevant Award or Enterprise Agreement. The Children’s Services Award 2010 allows for a first aid levy for any staff who are paid below level 3 and are expected to deliver First Aid. The Catholic Enterprise Agreement also contains a First Aid Levy. Please check your relevant award or agreement for details.