



2 June 2014

Media release for immediate distribution

Janette receives Queensland Educator of the Year

C&K Oakey Community Kindergarten teacher Janette Quince believes kindergarten is much more than the place children spend the year before starting school.

"It's a community of learners and teachers, a village raising children together," Janette said.

It's this kind of passion, not just for educating children but helping them develop into healthy, responsible adults, that earned Janette the title 'Queensland Early Childhood Educator of the year' in the Australian Family Early Education & Care Awards announced recently.

The hardworking, Toowoomba-born educator was thrilled when she received news of the award.

"I couldn't believe it," Janette said.

"I've been working at C&K Oakey for five years now, spending every day helping children learn through play, so it feels quite strange and wonderful to suddenly receive such a big award."

Janette has worked hard to create a kindergarten with lots of natural play space that encourages children to explore, discover, problem solve and create.

She also incorporates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures into the kindergarten program and strives to build strong relationships with the families and the general community.

"We have a nature trail, a gunya or cubby house, bush tucker garden, Torres Strait Islander garden, vegetable garden, chooks, a budgie and lots of open space as well," Janette said.

"I strongly believe in the C&K philosophy of helping children learn through play, allowing them to initiate their own learning and providing them with a range of different experiences to pursue."

"I'm very proud of the relationships the kindergarten has with families."

"I think families really feel they belong and are an important part of the kindergarten – and they are."

"We work on projects together and hold a lot of community events. We also get families contributing to the resources at the kindergarten, like one of our Dads who built our gunya, which the children love to play in."

Janette completed her Bachelor of Education in Mackay and worked there for a number of years, before moving to Toowoomba, where she completed her Masters in Education, and now Oakey, where she believes she has found a special place.



"Children learn so much in kindergarten, it's incredible," Janette said.

"Sometimes it's hard to measure because we don't get them to do any tests to compare what they know and can do at the start and end of the year. But the transformation is really incredible. And I love being part of that."

Janette will travel to Sydney for the national awards in June.

End

For more information contact:
Shelley Marie-Sainte
C&K Marketing and Communications Manager
Ph: 0408 874 102 or email: s.mariesainte@candk.asn.au