



## **TOP PROVIDER GIVES FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

THEY grow their own food, have a fulltime outdoor childcare worker and a ropes course in the backyard.

This is the face of the top 1 per cent of the state’s childcare providers, attaining the highly sought-after “excellent” rating under the national quality framework ratings system.

Everton Park Child Care and Development Centre received the rating last month after exceeding all seven areas rated by state assessors in April.

It is only after achieving this result that providers can apply for the excellent rating. They are scarce, making up a tiny 0.56 per cent of childcare operators statewide.

Centre director Hilary Webb said reaching the top standard was just about continuing what they were already doing every day.

“We are doing lots of things outside of the box,” she said. “Our children are allowed to climb trees, we have a ropes course, we grow and harvest our own vegies and put them in the meals as well. We are very open and community-minded – the program is child-driven.”

### **THE CRITERIA**

Each child care provider is rated on seven different categories: Education program, health and safety, physical



environment, staffing arrangements, relationships with the children, partnerships with the community and leadership.

### **Significant Improvement Required**

If a centre was to receive a “Significant Improvement Required” rating, it would mean that it falls below acceptable levels in many of the required categories.

### **Working Towards**

Curriculum decision making sometimes supports children’s learning and development, children’s learning and development is considered in some aspects of the planning. Basic hygiene practices are implemented, some steps are taken to control the spread of infectious diseases and to manage injuries and illness.

The configuration of outdoor and indoor spaces provides children with some opportunities to engage in activities.

The service is working towards ensuring educator-to-child ratios and qualification requirements are maintained at all times.

### **Meeting**

Each child’s current knowledge, ideas, culture, abilities and interests are the foundation of the program.

Effective hygiene practices are promoted and implemented, healthy eating is promoted and food and drinks provided by the service are nutritious and appropriate for each child.

Premises, furniture and equipment are safe, clean and well maintained. Children are supported to become environmentally responsible and show respect for the environment.

Educator-to-child ratios and qualification requirements are maintained at all times.

### **Exceeding**

Curriculum decision-making maximises each child’s learning and development opportunities.

Each child’s health needs are consistently supported, monitored and promoted.

All outdoor and indoor spaces, buildings, furniture, equipment, facilities and resources provide a stimulating learning and care environment for children.

Every child is consistently encouraged and supported to engage with educators in meaningful, open interactions that enhance the acquisition of skills for life and learning.

### **Excellent**

A centre excels in all ratings.