

# CASE STUDY 8

Increasing Children's Connection To Their Community

**Family Day Care:** ..... Country Kids Childcare  
**Contact:** ..... Georgina Zadelj  
**Location:** ..... Eubenangee (North QLD)  
**Age of Children:** ..... 10 months to 9 years  
**Number of Children Involved:** .....  
22 families on the books  
**Nature Play QLD Involvement:** ..... Nature Play Passports, Licences to Play and School Holiday Photo Challenges  
**About the Children:** .....  
One child with autism and special needs enrolled



## Today



"I never used to walk with the kids. We used to do everything in the yard, but now that's changed," says Georgina Zadelj.

Since first introducing the Nature Play QLD Passport to an Amazing Childhood to her family day care two years ago, Georgina has noticed big changes in both herself and the children.

"It's really made me think more outside the square," says Georgina. "It has inspired me a lot, which is obviously going to help the kids."

Children now travel great distances to attend her Country Kids Childcare, with an unprecedented 22 families on the books. Georgina puts this down to the freedom, adventure and fun that the kids have in her care.

"The kids want to come out here, especially the school aged kids, because we have so much fun."

But it's not just Georgina and the children that are benefiting. Georgina regularly prints off resources from the Nature Play QLD website (e.g. Green Time vs. Screen Time Challenge, and age-specific 'Things To Do' lists), which she sends home to the parents, and notes that they are now more conscious of their children's connection with nature too.

In the beginning, Georgina utilised the downloadable resources from the Nature Play QLD website, which she used at her sporting events and during holidays, until one school holidays she acquired pedometers for the kids.

Having ordered the Nature Play QLD Passport to an Amazing Childhood, Georgina assigned the children the passport mission of counting their daily steps.

Before long, Georgina and the children had ventured past her fence line and were exploring the neighbourhood around them.

At first the children tired easily, but their stamina quickly increased.

"The older kids just loved the whole idea that we were going to leave the yard because we had never done that before. In the past if they left the yard were in trouble," she says.



## Where To Next?

Georgina now has her sights set on a Nature Play QLD Forest Learning Workshop so she can improve her outdoor teaching techniques, and inspire other educators in her area to do the same. She is planning to apply for a grant through the Family Daycare Australia Excellence Fund, to help facilitate this.