



BoysTown

May 8, 2009

Connecting families with community

This Families Week (May 10-16) BoysTown is urging more parents to connect with local child and family services.

BoysTown Regional Manager Usha Sherwell said there are many services in Deception Bay for families and now is the perfect time to take advantage of them.

"BoysTown leads the local Communities for Children Initiative, which works with agencies, businesses and the community to support children before they reach school age," she said.

"We aim to link families with community support, as it is only by working together that we can ensure happy and fulfilling childhoods in the Bay."

Local activities include family fun days, library outreach activities, playgroups, parenting programs and peer mentoring.

While working to link families with other supports, BoysTown also offers their own programs for parents and children.

"Glugor House is a parenting and early childhood development program for young mothers and their babies and toddlers," Ms Sherwell said.

"We provide parenting and life skills courses for the mums while their children have fun playing and joining in activities that aid in their development.

"We cover issues like parenting, child safety, budgeting, self esteem, community involvement, women's health and cooking skills.

"When you realise that many young mums are isolated and struggling with their role as a parent, it is really encouraging to see young women out there connecting with the community and increasing their parenting skills."

Another BoysTown service is Parentline, which offers confidential, anonymous telephone counselling, education and support for parents and carers of children.

"Our caring and concerned counsellors are available for any parent or carer seven days a week, and can provide ongoing support if needed," Ms Sherwell said.

"In fact three out of every five callers make a time to speak with their counsellor again."

Parents can contact Parentline on 1300 30 1300, between 8am to 10pm, seven days a week for the cost of a local call.

Parentline is a shared initiative of BoysTown and the Queensland Department of Communities.

The Communities for Children Initiative funded by the Federal Government's Stronger Families and Communities Strategy and facilitated in Deception Bay by BoysTown.

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