

**Gold Coast's**

**Looking for the right place for your child? Here is the Gold Coast's Best Childcare Educator, as voted by those who know best - the parents of the children they care for.**

THE early years of education can make a world of difference, and the people on today's Top 10 know that better than most. Here are the Gold Coast's top 10 childcare educators, as voted by those who know best – the mums and dads who treasure what they do for their children.

**WINNER****1. SERENA LUCAS – BLUEBIRD EARLY EDUCATION, ROBINA**

Serena's win, which comes after 20 years in the industry, was met with cheers and screams from her fellow colleagues.

"Honestly, I'm thinking there's going to come a point where it turns out this is a hoax," she joked.

"It's just so humbling, I don't even have any words because I've always preached that I do my job because I love it, so it's nice to have that appreciation.

"Working with children is so rewarding and satisfying, and every day is different."

She said since settling in Australia from New Zealand nine years ago she had been "very grateful" to love every day of her job. "My children and my work, that's pretty much my whole life," she said.

"Every day memories are created for me; it is a huge privilege to work with children and particularly the pre-prep group I work with.

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"Every day probably 30 memories are created for me because I really do believe in the importance of early childhood and the first five years of children's lives, I can't preach that enough.