**BECOMING A FACILITATOR: MIKAYLA’S STORY**

Mikayla Cronin: Yeah, so I went to my first supported playgroup and was involved in it at Redbank Plains. I went there because my second child was having attachment issues. So we went along and I was the nervous parent who was in the corner sort of not knowing where my space was. But it didn't take long for me to feel really comfortable there and get the support that I needed as a parent. I found there I was offering other parents support. That really made me think about where I wanted to go in life. I didn't want to just be a mum anymore, I wanted to have a purpose for me.

So even though I was pregnant at the time, I looked into my studying and I applied to be in the Diploma of Community Services and got accepted. I'm just finishing my course now, I handed in my last subject just the other day. So from that I was able to start the playgroup here at the Ipswich Central Library and give other parents the support and guidance. Let them know that they're not just mums, that they also have a journey to go on with their children.