



Mums care for kids of all abilities

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CHILDCARE can be challenging to find at the best of times, but it's all the more difficult for parents of children with a disability.

Disappointed by the limited resources at mainstream childcare centres, Ruby & Ollie's All Abilities Childcare founder Rebecca Glover came up with a solution.

"The idea came when I was searching for childcare for my daughter, Ruby, who has a few more needs than most," said Ms Glover, a finalist in the 2015 Telstra Queensland Business Women's Awards.

"Mainstream childcare centres just weren't equipped, appropriately staffed, or lacked

the necessary resources to provide the high level of care Ruby required. So that's when our business was born."

Ms Glover launched a childcare service called Hummingbirds with just four children. It was there that she

met business partner Leah James, who was searching for someone to care for her son, Ollie.

Realising there was huge demand for the service, the pair expanded to a larger centre offering childcare to children "irrespective of their development requirements".

"We offer care that encompasses a holistic approach to the child and the family's vision, in an educational, therapeutic, social and nurturing environment," Ms Glover said.

To get the funding to expand, the pair braved Channel Ten's reality show *Shark Tank*, where tech guru Steve Baxter took a stake in the company.

"Since then, the business has gone from strength to strength," Ms Glover said. "Steve is such an incredibly knowledgeable, sincere and approachable gentleman. We feel so humbled to have him assisting us."

Ruby & Ollie's is now preparing for the grand opening of

their new centre this year.

The winners of the Telstra Queensland Business Women's Awards, co-sponsored by News Corp Australia, publisher of *The Courier-Mail*, will be announced on September 29.

