



Welcome | Our Family Handbook provides important information you need to know to ensure the best possible start to quality education and care at Little Genesis Early Learning Centre.

We recommend you read the provided information and ask questions to confirm your understanding of how our service operates. You will be required to sign and return the form on the last page of the handbook to confirm you have read and understand the information you have been given in your enrolment pack.

We have an open-door policy and you and your family are welcome to visit our Service at any time.

Service Mission Statement

At Little Genesis, we believe we are beginning children's journey in faith and education. Our hope is that with confidence the children will continue their schooling, healthy in mind, body, and spirit, secure that their ideas and thinking are valued. Such a strong foundation provides our children the opportunity for the growth of a love for learning which will assist them in their life-long education.



CONTENTS			
Service Information Educator to child ratios	3	Orientation- Preparing for your child's first day Arrival and Departure	23 23-24
Contact information Management Structure Regulatory Authorities	4	The first day/ week Saying goodbye What you need to bring	24 24 25-26
Service Philosophy	5	What food to pack your child	26-27
Our commitment to child safety	6	Food Safety and Heating Food	27
Code of conduct	6	Special Dietary Requirements	28
Our educators and staff	6-7	Nut Free Service	28
National Quality Framework	7	Breastfeeding Clothing Toys	28 29-30 31
Early Years Learning Framework	8-10	Behaviour Guidance Physical Play Rest and Sleep	29 29-30 30
Educational Program	10	Sustainability Birthdays Family Walls	30 31 31
Faith Based Learning Goals for your child at our Service	11 11-12	Sun Safety Parent Participation and Feedback	31-32 32
Documentation of Learning/Portfolios Communication	12 12-13	Family Involvement	32-34
Yearly Planner Enrolment Information	13	Health and Hygiene	34-38
Enrolment Information cont.	13-16	Safety in Our Service	38-41
Fees, rebates, and attendance	17-22	Genesis Christian College Enrolments	41
Service Policies and Procedures	23	Parent Acknowledgement	43



Service Information

Our Service caters for children aged 6 weeks to 6 years. We are open from 6.30am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday, 50 weeks of the year closing for two weeks over the Christmas/ New Year period. The Service is also closed on Queensland public holidays. Notice will be given when these days occur.

Our Kindergarten program operates from 8:15am-2:45pm every day and is charged for 50 weeks of the year. The structure of our kindergarten program involves sessional or extended hours depending on the needs of your family and the spaces available within the two Kindergarten rooms.

Little Genesis has approval to care for 75 children in the following early childhood classes:

Nursery/ Toddlers - 6 weeks to 2 years (8 children per day)

Junior Kindy - 2 years to 3 years (10 children per day)

Pre Kindy - 3 years to 4 years (13 children per day)

Kindergarten Blue - 3 years to 6 years (22 children per day)

Kindergarten Gold - 3 years to 6 years (22 children per day)

Genesis Christian College and Little Genesis Early Learning Centre are owned by the Company, Genesis Christian College Ltd. The College is controlled by the members through the Board of Directors.

Educator to child ratios (QLD) –

We comply with the National Regulations for educator to child ratios across our Service to ensure adequate supervision is provided for all children.

AGE OF CHILDREN:

EDUCATOR TO CHILD RATIOS:

Birth to 24 months	1:4
Over 24 months and less than 36 months	1:5
36 months up to and including preschool age	1:11



Contact Information

Phone: 07 3882 9032

Email: littlegenesis@genesis.qld.edu.au

Website: www.littlegenesis.qld.edu.au

Street Address: 8 Youngs Crossing Road, Bray Park, QLD, 4500

Postal Address: PO Box 5206, Brendale QLD, 4500

Management Structure

Approved Provider: [Little Genesis Ltd](#)

Director of Childcare Services/ Nominated Supervisor: [Kirsty Holmes](#)

Assistant Director/Centre Manager: [Marilyn Fahey](#)

Assistant Director/Educational Leader: [Kristi Harris](#)

Regulatory Authorities

Our Service is regulated by the national body for early education and care – the Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) as well as the state licensing department in Queensland.

To contact our Regulatory Authority, please refer to the contact details below:

Queensland

Regulations, Assessment and Service Quality

Early Childhood and Community Engagement- Department of Education and Training

PO Box 15033, City East QLD 4002

Phone: 13QGov (137468)

E-mail: ecec@qed.qld.gov.au

Website: www.qed.qld.gov.au

Regional Regulatory Authority Office for This Service:

Early Childhood Education and Care Department of Education

North Lakes Regional Office- PO Box 248, Kallangur Q 4503

Email: Northlakes.ecec@qed.qld.gov.au

Ph: 07 5433 6106, Fax: (07) 5433 612



Service Philosophy

- F** *For each child's agency to be promoted, enabling them to make choices and decisions, as experiences are developed to meet children's needs and interests.* QA1:2:3
- A** *All families' expertise, culture, values, and beliefs are respected and recognised, and they share in the decision making about their child's learning and well-being* QA6:1:2
- I** *In our program, all aspects, including routines, are organised in ways that maximise opportunities for each child's learning.* QA1:1:3
- T** *The children have the right to learn regardless of culture, socio-economic status or ability, and the dignity and rights of every child are maintained at all times.* QA5:1:2
- H,** *Helping children to feel secure, confident, and included, the educators build trusting relationships by responsive and meaningful interactions.* QA5:1:1
- H** *Healthy eating and physical activity is promoted through planned and spontaneous experiences that are appropriate for each child.* QA2:1:3
- O** *Our children's individual health needs are supported, and hygiene practices are implemented to promote a healthy environment.* QA2:1:2
- P** *Processes are in place to ensure that there is effective self-assessment and quality improvement across the service.* QA7:2:1
- E** *Engaging with and building relationships with our local community is foundational, as families and community form an integral part of our culture.* QA6:2:3
- &**
- L** *Learning and development for each child is assessed as part of an ongoing cycle of planning, documentation, and evaluation.* QA1:3:1
- O** *Our team interactions show mutual respect, equity and recognition of each staff member's strength and skills.* QA4:2:1
- V** *Valuable outdoor and indoor spaces are designed and organised to engage and are adapted to support every child in quality play, using a combination of built and natural environments.* QA3:2:1
- E** *Environmental awareness is highly regarded and is fostered by encouraging children to show respect for the environment, through participation in our programs.* QA3:2:3

"And now these three remain: Faith Hope and Love. But the greatest of these is Love." (1 Corinthians 13/13)



Our Commitment to Child Safety

Our Service is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children is maintained at all times whilst being educated and cared for at Little Genesis Early Learning Centre. We promote a child safe environment that minimises the risk to all children in our care from all types of abuse, harm and neglect. We understand our responsibilities and statutory duty of care to adopt and comply with the National Principles of Child Safe Organisations and the Reportable Conduct Scheme to build our capacity as an organisation to prevent and respond to allegations of child abuse.

Our staff carry out their responsibilities as mandatory reporters as required by law under the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection Act 1998) and keep up to date with knowledge of child protection law and child protection training.

Our staff are recruited through an extensive screening process to ensure they display the right personal qualities and experiences to provide high quality supervision and care to children in addition to holding a validated Working with Children Check.

We have a zero tolerance for inappropriate behaviour towards children and any breach of child protection law. Any allegation or concern will be responded to promptly by management. We request that you contact our Nominated Supervisor if you have any concerns. Ph: 07 3882 9032/ E: littlegenesis@genesis.qld.edu.au

Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct establishes the standards for all employees of our Service. Employees are committed to adhere to the ethical responsibilities of early childhood professionals outlined in the Early Childhood Australia's Code of Ethics. The values that underpin our work ethic include equality, respect, integrity, and responsibility.

Our educators and staff

Our Service is made up of a team of high-quality professional educators who are committed to and passionate about early childhood education and care. Our staff promote the human rights, safety and wellbeing of all children and consider and respect the diverse backgrounds and needs of children.



We create an environment that promotes and enables children's participation and is welcoming, culturally safe, and inclusive for all children and their families.

Our educators are continually evaluating how our curriculum meets the educational needs of our children and reflecting on ways to improve children's learning and development. Our educational leader and early childhood teachers guide our educators in providing quality, research based educational programs.

Our educators consider children's learning styles, abilities, interests, linguistic and cultural diversity, and family circumstances when planning and implementing learning programs. We support and respect the history and backgrounds of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and aim to foster each child's sense of identity.

All staff are encouraged and supported to attend professional training and development to further their knowledge and skills.

All staff hold valid Working with Children Checks/Cards and all Responsible Persons (placed in charge of the day-to-day running of the service) have current ACECQA approved First Aid, Emergency Asthma and Anaphylaxis qualifications.

For further details on the qualifications of the educators, please see our Nominated Supervisor.

National Quality Framework

Our Service complies with the Australian Government's National Quality Framework (NQF) which consists of the legislative framework of the Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations, the National Quality Standard and a rigorous assessment and rating system.

Our educational program and curriculum are based on the Australian Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF). We regularly self-assess our practices against the National Quality Standard and strive for continuous improvement through our Quality Improvement Plan (QIP). The QIP assists our service to identify quality aspects of care we are already providing and assists in developing future goals for further improvement. Families are welcome to provide feedback and suggestions for improvement.

Additional information about the NQF can be found at [ACECQA/nqf/about](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/nqf/about)



Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)

The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) was developed to ensure all children in early childhood education and care settings across Australia, experience quality teaching and learning through play-based experiences. The EYLF is made up of learning outcomes, principles, and practices which educators use in their documentation of children's learning and in their reflection and planning. Fundamental to the EYLF is a view of children's lives as characterised by *belonging, being and becoming*.

From before birth children are connected to family, community, culture, and place. Their earliest development and learning take place through these relationships, particularly within families, who are children's first and most influential educators. As children participate in everyday life, they develop interests and construct their own identities and understandings of the world.

BELONGING

Experiencing *belonging* – knowing where and with whom you belong – is integral to human existence. Children belong first to a family, a cultural group, a neighbourhood, and a wider community. Belonging acknowledges children's interdependence with others and the basis of relationships in defining identities. In early childhood, and throughout life, relationships are crucial to a sense of belonging. Belonging is central to being and becoming in that it shapes who children are and who they can become.

BEING

Childhood is a time to be, to seek and make meaning of the world. Being recognises the significance of the here and now in children's lives. It is about the present and them knowing themselves, building and maintaining relationships with others, engaging with life's joys and complexities, and meeting challenges in everyday life. The early childhood years are not solely preparation for the future but also about the present.

BECOMING

Children's identities, knowledge, understandings, capacities, skills, and relationships change during childhood. They are shaped by many different events and circumstances. Becoming reflects this process of rapid and significant change that occurs in the early years as young children learn and grow. It emphasises learning to participate fully and actively in society.



The framework conveys the highest expectations for children's learning from birth to five years and through transitions to school. The expectations are communicated through the five overall learning outcomes.

Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity

- Children feel safe, secure, and supported
- Children develop their emerging autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience and sense of agency
- Children develop knowledgeable and confident self-identities
- Children learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy and respect

Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world

- Children develop a sense of belonging to groups and communities and an understanding of the reciprocal rights and responsibilities necessary for active community participation
- Children respond to diversity with respect
- Children become aware of fairness
- Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment

Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

- Children become strong in their social and emotional wellbeing
- Children take increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing

Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners

- Children develop dispositions for learning such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity
- Children develop a range of skills and processes such as problem solving, enquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating
- Children transfer and adapt what they have learned from one context to another
- Children resource their own learning through connecting with people, place, technologies, and natural and processed materials

Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators

- Children interact verbally and non-verbally with others for a range of purposes
- Children engage with a range of texts and gain meaning from these texts
- Children express ideas and make meaning using a range of media



- Children begin to understand how symbols and pattern systems work
- Children use information and communication technologies to access information, investigate ideas and represent their thinking

Educational Program

We are committed to providing a developmental and educational program which caters for each child's individual needs, abilities, and interests. Our educational program is delivered through an intentional, play-based pedagogy aligned to the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF).

Our program continues to develop as we use the relationships children have with their families and communities, working in partnership with parents, to ensure each child's knowledge, ideas, culture, abilities, and interests are the foundation of our programs.

We encourage children to be responsible for their own learning through choices in experiences, interests, and routine. We use conversations, actions and play as the basis for teaching which involves the children being partners in teaching by seeking out ideas, opinions, thoughts, and questions. We encourage children in promoting their independence and self-help skills by assisting within the routine and involving the children in interest-based projects to further enhance their learning and knowledge. We value children and family input and encourage family involvement in order to gather a comprehensive and holistic view of the child.

We know that children learn effectively through play and educators who are diligent in their responsiveness to each child support this. Applying strong intentional teaching practices provide the children with an authentic and meaningful learning environment that challenges, supports and nurtures a child's development.

If we as educators have any areas of concern about your child's development, we will inform you and share our observations and advise of follow up assistance e.g. speech therapy. We understand this may be a sensitive topic and it is always your decision to follow up intervention. Educators are willing to discuss any aspect of learning and development with parents and support discussions with allied health professionals.



Faith Based Learning

Little Genesis Early Learning Centre is a Christian focussed early learning centre. We encourage positive behaviour, high moral standards and values that support the Christian home. We strive to foster within every child a love of learning and a love of Christ. The Service operates around the core values of 'Faith, Hope and Love' and we believe we're beginning a child's journey in faith and education.

Goals for your child at our Service

"We discovered that education is not something which the teacher does, but that it is a natural process which develops spontaneously in the human being."

Maria Montessori

Educators' practices and the relationships they form with children and families have a significant effect on children's involvement and success in learning. Children thrive when families and educators work together in partnership to support young children's learning. Children's early learning influences their life chances.

Wellbeing and a strong sense of connection, optimism and engagement enable children to develop a positive attitude to learning. (Early Years Learning Framework p.9).

We will create a range of short and long-term goals for your child that we will program to and observe on which will be based on the outcomes in the Early Years Learning Framework and include:

- mutual respect and empathy
- concern and responsibility for self and others
- a sense of self worth
- social awareness
- importance of sustainability
- self-discipline and self-regulation
- habits of initiative and persistence
- creative intelligence and imagination
- self-confidence as an independent learner
- a love of learning.



We strongly encourage communication between families and educators to ensure continuity in what we are delivering to your child and acknowledge that the role of the educator is to work in partnership with families, children's first, and most influential educators.

Documentation of Learning/ Portfolios

Educators observe children and facilitate their learning to provide each child with a personal, confidential hard copy portfolio by documenting their learning throughout the year. Our Service uses a variety of documentation to demonstrate learning which may include:

- your child's profile
- goals from families and educators
- observations- learning stories, captioned photos
- objectives for further development
- work samples- drawings, photos, recorded video
- checklists and transition statements.

The individual child's portfolio is maintained and used as a direct tool for evaluation and future planning within the Service's program. This makes the program reflect the value of individuality and is not to be used as a means of comparison between peers or stereotypes. You will be given your child's portfolio at the end of the school year or as they finish at the Service. The portfolio will be used in parent/educator meetings throughout the year and is always available for you to review at your convenience.

Communication

We work in partnership with you and your family. We support and encourage communication with your child's educators about your child's unique needs and their general enjoyment of their day at our Service. Everybody has a preferred time and method of communication. Sometimes, mornings and afternoons can be a little rushed, and not the best time to discuss your child's progress. You are encouraged to talk to our Nominated Supervisor to arrange to meet your child's educator at a mutually convenient time.

Our Service uses the app 'Storypark' as a communication tool between leadership, educators and families.



We have many types of communication we use for families, including:

- Newsletters
- Phone calls
- Emails
- Communication notebooks outside the rooms
- Information pockets and pigeonholes located outside the rooms for notes and letters
- Face to face
- Daily floor books
- Mid-year and End of year interviews
- Formal meetings

Yearly Planner

At the beginning of each calendar year, all families are supplied with a copy of the Little Genesis Yearly Planner. This planner contains all relevant dates for important events during the year including fortnightly statement runs, public and school holiday days, incursions and excursions, special celebrations, and end of year functions. Each event that is outlined on the planner will be advertised in detail closer to the date.

Enrolment Information

Prior to your child commencing at our Service, you'll be required to complete an enrolment form and provide documentation such as birth certificate and a current immunisation statement. You will also be required to sign your enrolment form as this forms part of your Complying Written Agreement with the centre.

Enrolment Form

Our Enrolment Process is managed online through a system called QK Enrol. This system will give you access to manage your own account information and complete and submit online enrolment forms for your child. If you require assistance completing the enrolment form, please contact our Leadership team for assistance.



We will require a copy of your child's birth certificate and immunisation history statement from the Australian Immunisation Register. This must show that your child is up to date with vaccinations for their age OR your child is on a recognised vaccine catch up schedule OR has a medical condition preventing them from being fully vaccinated.

Please note, the names written on the enrolment form must match the names on your child's birth certificate to meet legal requirements.

Families are required to keep their enrolment information up to date at all times. If there are changes to your personal details, please notify the Centre Manager as soon as possible. This is particularly important for parent phone numbers, email address or child medical details.

Family law and access

Our Service will uphold any responsibilities or obligations in relation to Family Law and access to the service. We require certified copies of any court order, parenting orders or parenting plans, relating to your child and request that if situations change, a copy of the Court Order is provided to our Service. We will only allow children to leave the Service with the written permission of the custodial parent/guardian. Without a current Court Order, we cannot stop a parent collecting a child.

Authorised Nominees

You will be requested to provide information about authorised nominees on your child's enrolment form. These are persons that you provide permission to:

- collect your child from the Service
- provide consent for medical treatment for your child from a medical practitioner, hospital, or ambulance service
- provide consent for the transportation of your child by an ambulance service
- provide consent to go on an excursion.

Please understand that it is essential we have up-to-date information on your child's enrolment record in case of an emergency. It is important that you notify the Centre Manager of any changes to enrolment information including:

- your residential address
- health of your child



- telephone/mobile numbers
- contact details for any parent or authorised nominee
- family changes (parenting orders)
- emergency contact information details etc.

No child will be allowed to leave the Centre without an authorised adult of 18+ years.

Authorisations

The enrolment form will include additional authorisations for our Service to seek medical treatment and emergency transportation for your child if required. Authorisations will also be requested for application of sun cream, permission to administer emergency medication to your child in the case of an asthma or anaphylaxis emergency. (Ventolin or Epi-pen) and permission to access medical treatment and transport in case of an emergency.

Photographs, social media, promotion

As part of the enrolment process, we will also ask for your permission to take photographs and video of your child during normal activities and excursions for sharing with our parent community through social media, Facebook or Storypark to promote our Service to the community through marketing and promotional materials. Photographs and video may also be used as part of our observation and programming process.

Excursions

Excursions are an important and valuable part of learning in early education. They expose a child to a range of different experiences and help them to observe and understand the world around them. For any excursion or regular outing in our community, we will complete comprehensive risk assessments to minimise any identified risks as part of our planning for excursions. We provide parents with information about the excursion in advance and require written authorisation for each child to participate on an excursion or regular outing. Any costs associated with excursions will be added to your family account.



Medical conditions- Allergies, Asthma, Diabetes or Epilepsy

It is vital that we are aware of any medical conditions that your child may have, including diabetes, epilepsy, allergies, eczema, asthma, and risks of anaphylaxis, including any potential triggers. Families are required to indicate any allergy or asthma on the enrolment form.

Our Service requires a Medical Management Plan or Asthma/Anaphylaxis Action Plan to be completed by your General Practitioner to assist in managing your child's needs. This needs to be provided prior to your child's commencement at the Service. In consultation with the Nominated Supervisor, you will be asked to develop a Risk Minimisation Plan and Communication Plan to assist our educators and staff. Any prescribed medication that your child may require must be provided each day they attend our Service. Any medication that comes into the service must also have a clear chemist label with your child's name. We are unable to administer medication that states the name of a sibling or family member to your child.

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of your child, please update your child's Medical Management Plan/ Action Plan every 12 months or earlier if a change in their medication or treatment occurs. (Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy) (ASCIA).

The Service must be notified immediately if there are any changes to your child's medical conditions.

Diagnosed disability

If your child has a diagnosed disability, please speak to our Nominated Supervisor prior to enrolment. We provide a supportive and inclusive environment that allows each child to fully participate in quality education and care. We aim to develop and sustain supportive relationships with families and encourage discussions about how we can support your child to have equitable access to resources and participation. If your child has a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) package, we may need your consent to contact services and/or therapists who are working with your child to seek information regarding their learning plan to support continuity of learning.

Our Service may be able to apply for additional support through the Inclusion Support Program (SIP) to assist your child's access.



Kindergarten Uniforms

Uniforms for all Kindergarten children are compulsory during the school term. Uniforms can be purchased from the Genesis Christian College Uniform Shop. More information can be found in our Uniform Guide.

Fees, rebates, and attendance

Fees

Our daily fees are as follows:

- Nursery/ Toddlers- \$101.50
- Junior Kindy- \$101.50
- Pre Kindy- \$99
- Kindy Blue- \$99 + \$100 annual fee (\$25 charged per term)
- Kindy Gold Sessional - \$84 + \$100 annual fee (\$25 charged per term)
- Kindy Gold Extended - \$99 + \$100 annual fee (\$25 charged per term)

These fees are before Child Care Subsidy (CCS) has been applied.

Fees must always be paid 2 weeks in advance.

Fees are charged for 50 weeks of the year for all days including public holidays. Full fees are payable for all absences including illnesses and also for days when the Centre is closed for public holidays.

Fees for sessional hours Kindy are charged during school terms only. Sessional bookings are not charged for school holidays but are charged for any Pupil Free Days that occur within the term time.

Statement of Fees and Direct Debit

Each fortnight we will send you a statement via email before your fortnightly debit. Please check these statements to ensure all details are correct and accurate. If there is any discrepancy, please contact the Centre Manager as soon as possible.



Payment methods

As a condition of enrolment, all families are required to set up a direct debit with our payment merchant, Debit Success. Families can choose to nominate either a credit card or a bank account to have fees debited from.

Fee statements are issued on a Thursday and account payments are processed on the Monday, for the period two weeks in advance. Please note that payments take a day or two to be deducted from your nominated account depending on your bank. For exact payment dates, refer to our Yearly Planner.

Debt Management process

If families have a declined direct debit payment, they will be sent a 1st Letter of Reminder, and we will attempt to process the payment in 2 business days.

If the second payment declines, families will be sent a 2nd Letter of Reminder and the payment again rescheduled to process in 2 business days.

Should the payment decline, families will be issued with a Final Letter of Demand, and child/ren's care at the service may be suspended with the account being passed onto Genesis Christian College Finance Department, should family's fail to correct the outstanding balance.

Please note that additional charges will apply for any failed transactions as a result of insufficient funds.

Other Fees and Charges

Enrolment Deposit (Bond): Upon enrolment a \$200 enrolment deposit (bond) is charged per child. This deposit is to hold your enrolment place at Little Genesis. This amount is then credited against your child's account once their enrolment begins and will be shown on your first family statement.

Hat and Sunscreen Levy: To ensure we are complying with sun safety recommendations, all children from Nursery age upwards will be provided with a hat each year. The hats are clearly named and colour-coded to rooms. Children are required to wear their Little Genesis hat when engaging in outdoor activities. During the first term of the year, each child will be charged an annual \$25 Hat and Sunscreen Levy. This amount is a one-off annual fee and covers your child's Little Genesis hat and sunscreen for the year.



Kindergarten Activity Levy: A \$25 Activity Levy is charged to all kindergarten families each term. This levy covers the cost of the following activities:

- Activities at Genesis Sports and Aquatics Centre including tennis, swimming, and gross motor skill programs.
- Digital learning subscriptions including I Love Reading

Incursions/ Excursions: If your child attends the service on the day of an incursion or excursion, the cost of the experience will be added to your family account. Notice of upcoming incursions or excursions will be provided by the Nominated Supervisor or room Educators with the cost detailed.

Optional Extras: Throughout the year there are opportunities for families to participate in activities such as our Centre Photos, Mother's Day and Father's Day stalls and other events. These activities are optional. Information will be provided to families about how to be involved.

Child Care Subsidy (CCS)

Child Care Subsidy offers assistance to families to help with the cost of childcare aged 0-13 years. There are 3 factors that will determine a family's level of Child Care Subsidy, which include:

- Combined annual family income
- Activity test – the activity level of both parents
- Service type – type of childcare service and whether the child attends school

Families who wish to receive Child Care Subsidy as reduced fees must apply through the [myGov](#) website. This includes completing the Child Care Subsidy activity test. Child Care Subsidy is paid directly to our Service to be passed on to families as a fee reduction. Families will contribute to their childcare fees and pay the difference between the fee charged by our Service and the subsidy amount received. This is called the 'gap fee'.

On enrolment, we will need the Customer Reference Number (CRN) of the person linked with the child, along with the child's CRN. We can then confirm attendance and ensure you are receiving the appropriate subsidy.



Complying Written Agreement (CWA)

A Complying Written Agreement (CWA) is an agreement between our Service and a parent or guardian to provide childcare in exchange for fees. The CWA includes information about your child's enrolment including your child's full name and date of birth, the date the arrangement is effective from, session details and details of the fees to be charged. Before Child Care Subsidy can be paid, you must approve the enrolment information within the CWA via the [MyGov website](#).

Absences

We encourage families to notify the Service as soon as possible if your child will be absent for any day or session you have booked. It is recommended that absences are notified to the Service by email.

Child Care Subsidy will be paid for any absence from an approved childcare service your child attends for up to 42 days per child per financial year. Additional absences beyond 42 days may be approved for specific reasons with supporting documentation. Please talk to us about additional absences.

You can view your child's YTD absences on the statement of fees sent to you each fortnight.

Public holidays will be counted as an absence if your child would normally have attended the Service on that weekday, and fees have been charged for that day for your child.

If your child has not attended our Service for 14 continuous weeks, your child's enrolment will be cancelled, and Centrelink will stop paying your CCS subsidy.

Holiday Discount

Families can access a holiday discount of 50% for two weeks of your child's booking each year (e.g., if your child's enrolment is for 3 days per week, you may claim half price fees for two weeks at 3 days per week only). Children are unable to attend the Centre for this two-week period if this option has been processed.

Advanced written notice is required for claiming the holiday discount. The holiday discount cannot be claimed historically.



Service Closing Time and Late Collection Fees

Please be aware our Service and program closes at 6:00pm. In accordance with National Regulations and licensing, we are not permitted to have children in the service after 6:00pm. A late fee is incurred for children collected after 6.00pm.

The fee is \$1 per minute for the first ten minutes and then \$30 for each ten-minute increment thereafter and will be added to your next account. The late fee is strictly adhered to, as two staff members are required to remain at the Service until all children are collected.

If we are unable to contact either the parent or a person nominated by the parent on the enrolment form to arrange collection of the child/children within an hour of the Service closing, we may need to contact the Police or other authorities to take responsibility of your child.

Fees in arrears/ Financial Support

Fees are always to be paid two weeks in advance. If the Direct Debit is attempted on the allocated account processing day and there are insufficient funds, there will be a dishonour fee charged by our provider, Debit Success.

It is the responsibility of each family to ensure that payment details are always kept up to date. This includes ensuring there are enough funds in their designated account and credit card expiry dates are current.

If processing of your account fails, you will be contacted by phone or email and asked to make payment. Should fees still be outstanding after three weeks, a debt recovery process will be implemented. Little Genesis Early Learning Centre reserves the right to suspend/withdraw your child's enrolment if your account is overdue after the final notice letter is issued.

If you are experiencing financial hardship, please speak to the Centre Manager. Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS) may be available to support your family. We may be able to organise a payment plan before your fees go into arrears.



Withdrawal from care / Reducing Enrolment Days

We require 2 weeks written notice to withdraw and/or reduce enrolment days for your child/ren from any permanent booking. Please see the Centre Manager to obtain the required form to complete. Children are not able to attract CCS for any days after the last day your child physically attends our Service. *There are some circumstances where CCS can be paid after the last day your child physically attends with an approved reason.*

Adding Enrolment Days

Places at Little Genesis are in high demand and vacancies are limited. If you wish to increase your child's enrolled days, please speak to the Centre Manager to obtain the required form to complete.

Permanent and Casual Bookings

Permanent bookings are an ongoing booking that:

- remains the same from one week to the next
- must remain unchanged for a minimum of 3 weeks
- are chargeable regardless of attendance

Casual bookings can be booked at the last minute for emergency care. Places for casual bookings at Little Genesis are extremely limited. If you require a casual booking, we will place your child on a casual waiting list and will contact you if a vacancy becomes available.

Waiting list

Casual waiting list: We will create a casual waiting list for casual bookings that have been requested for a session that we are at capacity. If positions become available, we will allocate them in order of application whilst adhering to recommendations of Priority of Access.

Permanent waiting list: If you would like to increase your child/ren's permanent sessions but there are no permanent vacancies, your child/ren will be placed on a waiting list until a position becomes available. Positions will be allocated in order of application, whilst adhering to our Priority of Access process. Vacancies are offered to current families, before they are offered to external waiting list families.



Priority of Access

Our Service aims to assist families who are most in need and may prioritise filling vacancies with children who are:

- o at risk of serious abuse or neglect
 - o a child of a sole parent who satisfies, or parents who both satisfy, the activity test through paid employment.

Service Policies and Procedures

You will find a copy of our Service policies and procedures next to our parent sign in area. We expect our staff and families to adhere to our policies and procedures at all times to ensure we maintain compliance and abide by the National Law and National Regulations.

Educators cannot make exceptions for individuals unless the Nominated Supervisor or Management do so on account of serious and/or unusual circumstances.

We are constantly reviewing our policies and procedures and ask for staff and family participation to ensure our policies and procedures adhere to the needs of our families and meet required regulations. Your involvement helps us to improve our Service and may lead us to change our policies and procedures.

Orientation- Preparing for your child's first day

Orientation is an important start for your child and family to connect to our Service. We encourage each child to attend our Service in the company of a family member before they start their first day with us. This gives you and your child the opportunity to gain an understanding of our program, the lay out of the room, where to put your child's belongings and provide educators with additional information about your child and how we can best support their transition and settling in period. Please speak to the Centre Manager to arrange a day and time.

If your child is reluctant to attend, please discuss this with their assigned educator so that they can develop strategies with you to support the transition from home to the Service. You are welcome to



take photos of your child in our environment to show and discuss at home with them. Some children like to take a book from our library to read at home and return on the next visit.

Arrival and Departure

Each day, you must sign your child in upon arrival and sign out upon departure and note the date and times. Families complete the sign in process on the digital screens in the parent sign in area. We are required by legislation to maintain our attendance record at all times. This record may be used in the event of an emergency situation at the Service.

Our staff have a duty of care to your child and will only allow your child to be released into the care of either a parent, guardian or an authorised nominee as listed on your child's enrolment record. If your child needs to be collected by another person for some reason, an authority to collect form must be provided in writing to the Nominated Supervisor. Our staff may ask to view photo identification of the adult collecting your child from care to confirm their identity.

The first day/week

The first day in a new service is a big step for you and your child. Please don't be alarmed if your child experiences some separation anxiety. This is normal and our experienced educators will assist you and your child through this transition period. We encourage parents to stay as long as they like during the morning drop off to help your child settle into an activity. There may be tears and extra tight hugs when saying goodbye for the first few weeks but there are always cuddles, reassurance and genuine care from educators for both the children and their families. Sometimes this experience is upsetting more so for the family, not the child. We understand this and offer support through phone calls during the day, photos, and open communication.

Saying goodbye

Ideally, your child will be settled at an activity before you leave, however some children find it hard to settle until their parents have gone. What works best is a set routine so try to establish the care routine from the orientation process. Being well organised and avoiding a rush usually results in a calm start to the day.



Most children will want to have a look around first to see who else has arrived and to look at what activities are available. Please tell your child when you are leaving as they may become upset if they haven't had the opportunity to say goodbye. This will gain trust from the child, not only in you but in the educator, who is reassuring your child about their day and when you will return. Rest assured; we'll contact you if your child becomes distressed.

What you need to bring

BACKPACK

For independence, we work towards all children being able to recognise and open their own bag. You can help by allowing them to be involved in selecting their bag and taking ownership of it. Please ensure it is large enough to hold all their belongings and is clearly labelled.

SPARE CLOTHING

Every now and then, accidents occur, and it may be necessary for your child to get changed into a fresh set of clothes. Please include a complete change of clothes every day which can stay in your child's bag...just in case! For our Nursery/ Toddlers room it is handy to pack two to three spare outfits each day.

BOTTLES/ DUMMY/ SLEEP TOY

Breast milk must be supplied daily in bottles ensuring all bottle parts are clearly labelled.

If your child has formula, please supply bottles containing the correct amount of boiled water, formula powder should be supplied in a separate container, ready measured. We are unable to accept premade formula bottles. Please ensure all bottle parts (including formula containers) are clearly labelled.

We also ask that parents provide one extra bottle feed for children under twelve months old to allow for growth spurts or hot weather.

If your child uses a dummy, please ensure you also provide a cap or container for storage.

Your child is welcome to bring along their comforter or sleep toy. Families providing sleep toys will be required to complete a 'Parental Sleep Toy Request and Authorisation' As per our safe sleep policy, we are unable to place toys, pillows or extra items into the cot for any child under the age of 6 months.



SHEET SET

Please provide a fitted cot sheet for sleep time. During the winter months, please also provide a sleep suit or blanket. Please ensure all items are clearly labelled.

DRINK BOTTLE

A labelled drink bottle is required every day for water. Children are able to refill their drink bottle, when necessary, throughout the day. We always provide water and cups, but a drink bottle is a great start to school readiness.

MORNING TEA, LUNCH AND AFTERNOON TEA

For our Nursery/ Toddler and Junior Kindy rooms, please provide morning tea, lunch, and afternoon tea in separate, clearly labelled containers. Providing food in smaller containers is helpful for our educators when setting up for mealtimes.

In our Pre-Kindy and Kindy rooms, children may bring their morning tea, lunch, and afternoon tea in one larger lunchbox. We ask you clearly mark your child's name on the bottom of the box and lid. We also ask that you think about your child's ability to unwrap their lunch and open such things as muesli bars. Educators can provide tips to make this easier for your child.

As all lunches must be placed into the fridge in each room, please do not send it in a cooler bag, as these are not effective in the fridges.

We try to encourage healthy food choices at the Service and request that you provide sandwiches or wraps with nutritious fillings. Sprinkles & chocolate spreads are discouraged. Celery and carrot sticks or a salad are good additions to your child's lunch. See the following Information on the nutrition requirements recommended for 0-5year old children.

What food to pack your child for a busy day at our Service

RECOMMENDED DAILY INTAKES

It is expected that your child's lunch box supports them to consume 50% of the RDI at our Service.

Recommended average number of standard serves per day in accordance with Nutrition Australia.



Toddlers	Vegetables & legumes	Fruit	Grains (cereal)	Lean meat, fish, poultry, eggs, nuts, seeds, legumes, beans	Milk, yoghurt, cheese & alternatives	Allowance for additional serves from any food group*
GIRLS AND BOYS 1-2 YEARS	2-3	0.5	4	1	1-1.5	0
GIRLS AND BOYS 2-3 YEARS	2.5	1	4	1	1.5	0-1

CHILDREN	Vegetables & legumes	Fruit	Grains (cereal)	Lean meat, fish, poultry, eggs, nuts, seeds, legumes, beans	Milk, yoghurt, cheese & alternatives	Allowance for additional serves from any food group*
GIRLS 4-8 YEARS	4.5	1.5	4	1.5	1.5	0-1
GIRLS 9-11 YEARS	5	2	4	2.5	3	0-3
BOYS 4-8 YEARS	4.5	1.5	4	1.5	2	0-2.5
BOYS 9-11 YEARS	5	2	5	2.5	2.5	0-3

Reference: Nutrition Australia

<http://www.nutritionaustralia.org/national/resource/australian-dietary-guidelines-recommended-daily-intakes>

LUNCH BOX EXAMPLE

Please do not send chips, lollies/chocolates, highly processed foods, chocolate custards or desserts, pizzas, sausage rolls, pies, flavoured milk, roll ups or other high sugar bars, biscuits, or cakes.

Food Safety and Heating Food

The Service ensures that all food is prepared and provided to children in a way that is safe for the children in our care. Food supplied in children’s lunches is prepared in the rooms using the designated food preparation area or trolleys. Any room dishes are washed in the main kitchen using a high-powered commercial dishwasher to ensure a high standard of hygiene is maintained.



Food may be heated for children in the Nursery/ Toddler and Junior Kindy rooms. If you require your child's lunch to be heated, you must complete the *Food Heating Record* on drop off.

Food is not heated in the Pre-Kindy or the Kindergarten programs.

Special Dietary Requirements

All parents with children who have food intolerances, allergies or other special dietary requirements must complete a *Medical Conditions Plan*. This will ensure educators can take these requirements into consideration when planning cooking experiences or celebrations.

Nut Free Service

As we are an allergy aware service, with enrolled children who have life threatening allergies to nuts, we ask that children do not bring nuts or nut products including nut-based spreads or muesli bars containing nuts to the centre. We thank you for your co-operation.

Breastfeeding

We are a breastfeeding friendly service. Mothers who are breastfeeding are welcome to attend the Service during the day to feed their infant.

Families that are breastfeeding should speak to the Nursery/ Toddler Educators or Nominated Supervisor to be aware of our policies on storing and serving breast milk.

Families that are formula feeding should also consult our Nursery/ Toddler Educators or Nominated Supervisor to be aware on how we need the formula prepared and stored. Regular communication is encouraged to ensure your infant's needs are met as they grow.

Please refer to our *Breastfeeding Policy*.



Clothing

It is helpful to your child if they are dressed in non- restrictive, serviceable, and easy to wash clothes so that they feel free to join in all the activities and to develop independence. Shoes also, need to allow children freedom to run, climb, hop, and jump as well as being easy for the child to take off and put on by themselves. Joggers and sandals are appropriate shoes to wear. Children will also be encouraged to take off their shoes when climbing within the outdoor environment.

Thongs, slippers, and gumboots are not suitable, and we prefer that these are NOT worn to the Service. Also, please consider clothing that enables the child to move around easily and allows children to be independent in dressing. Clothing such as long dresses, overalls, braces, belts, and stiff buttons can prove a problem for children who need to go to the toilet. We require all t-shirts to have sleeves (no mid-drift tops or shoestring singlets) and hats that are broad brimmed are essential for effective sun safety.

Toys from home

The Service has an abundance of resources and we ask that children do not bring in toys from home. This eliminates toys getting lost, broken, disappointment for other children and responsibility on educators to track numerous toys throughout the day.

Behaviour Guidance

We encourage children to engage in cooperative and pro-social behaviour. We give children the opportunity to self-regulate their behaviours during play to develop their confidence and self-esteem. Educators follow a *Behaviour Guidance Policy* that extends across the whole Service giving consistency of expectation in all rooms. We use a positive approach to guiding children's behaviour to help them develop a respect for others, for property and respect for self. If you require further information on this policy, please ask educators and refer to our Policy manual.



Physical Play

Physical play includes activities that use physical movements to allow children to use their energy, enhance their concentration, motivation, learning and wellbeing. We feel physical play is a vital part of everyday life. We believe in providing children with a range of physical activities and experiences on a daily occurrence for them to challenge their large and small muscles, allowing them to gain increasing control over their bodies as they learn the importance of physical play.

Physical play provides children with the opportunity to:

- develop strong bones and muscles
- improve strength and balance
- develop flexibility and coordination
- develop fundamental movement Skills
- develop spatial awareness
- develop mathematical concepts
- be confident as they learn to control their bodies, understand their limits and assess safe risks
- learn to cooperate and share with others
- promote healthy growth and development

Rest and Sleep

Rest and sleep routines vary according to individual needs. We aim to make rest time a relaxed, pleasant time for all children. We provide beds for children and play soft music in the background. Your child may wish to bring a security item to have at rest time. Please feel free to discuss your child's rest or sleep needs with educators. Each day we provide information about the times your child rested or slept. Quiet activities, such as puzzles, and books are available for those children who do not sleep.

Sustainability

Our Service is passionate about sustainability. We believe in supporting children to appreciate and care for the environment by embedding sustainable practice into the daily operation of our Service, infrastructure, and teaching.



In order to empower our sustainability program, we emphasise children's ability to make a difference, enabling them to learn and appreciate their environment in an engaging, fun and exciting manner. We do this by engaging children in discussion about sustainable practice, encouraging them to participate in a recycling program, reducing energy and conserving water. We aim to provide children with the skills and knowledge required to become environmentally responsible.

Birthdays

It is very exciting for a child to be having a birthday. If you would like to bring in a cake for your child's birthday it is recommended that cupcakes be provided as this reduces the major allergy risks associated with most other cakes and helps us to provide a hygienic celebration with only the birthday child blowing out the candles on their cake. Families are required to discuss cake options with educators prior to the celebration as we monitor food and treats to ensure the safety of all children and staff.

Additionally, if your child has food allergies/intolerances, it is a great idea to send special cupcakes to be kept frozen for when other children bring in birthday cake. This is a way to ensure your child always has a special "treat" when other children are celebrating their birthday.

Family Walls

We have a *Family Wall* in each of our rooms. This is a strong and valuable tool in our environment for your child to connect to, feel that they and their family are valued and that their family is as much a part of the Service, even if they are not always there. If you would like to bring in a photo, or a couple of photos that represent your family, we would love to add it to our wall.

Sun Safety

Our Service implements a combination of sun protection measures to ensure the health and safety of your child at all times. We monitor the UV index levels daily and schedule outdoor activities when levels are safe. Our outdoor environment provides shade for play experiences, and we conduct regular risk assessments to ensure the play space and equipment is safe for children.



Upon enrolment, children will be provided with a Little Genesis hat to wear when they are at the Service. The hats are clearly named and colour-coded to rooms.

Children and educators must wear hats and appropriate clothing when outside. Educators will encourage children, including by way of modelling behaviour, to avoid excessive exposure to the sun and to wear suitable sunscreen (at least SPF 30+), which is reapplied according to the manufacturer's recommendations. We ask that children come to the Service with sunscreen already applied so they are able to participate in outdoor play immediately and not have to wait the 20 minutes after application. Consent to apply sunscreen is included in our enrolment form.

Parent Participation and Feedback

Our Service has an open-door Policy and actively seeks and encourages families to be involved in the Service. This can range from evaluating and adding input to your child's program and observations, volunteering within the Service, and sharing skills and experiences that the children and the program will benefit from and providing feedback. We seek input from families on all aspects of the Service but in particular, your child's goals, observations, and program.

If, for any reason you question or do not understand any aspect of the Service or your child's experience we have a *Grievance Policy* that supports all stakeholders in our community and like all policies, is available for families to consult and implement at any time. Copies of our policies are available in our parent sign in area.

Family involvement

We welcome and encourage the involvement of all parents/families at our Service. Your ideas, experiences and skills are greatly valued and will enable us to extend each child's interests, abilities, and knowledge. There are many ways for your family to be involved. We understand that our busy lives can't always afford the time, however any contribution no matter how big or small is much appreciated. Here are just a few ideas:



Your occupation or hobby

You are the most important person in their world. We welcome all parents to the Service to talk about their occupation or hobby (e.g., music, craft, cooking). Everything parents do interests children, and these discussions are the best educational resources you can provide for the Service.

We use information that has come from discussions about occupations and hobbies in our program and the ideas explored which can turn into interest projects providing valuable learning opportunities.

Your home culture

We aim to foster relationships among families and community and invite you to share aspects of your culture, history, language, and celebrations with our Service. Your involvement greatly assists us to enrich the lives of all our families and children.

Reading

Children love to be read to. If you or your parents have the time, please contact your room educators to organise a day for reading. We love grandparents visiting our Service!

Recyclable items and Loose Parts

We are always on the lookout for recyclable items and loose parts for the rooms. Empty food containers, ribbons, wrapping paper, paper towel tubes (not toilet or egg or milk because of hygiene and allergy issues) paper or anything interesting from your work is much appreciated. We greatly appreciate donations of loose parts such as plumbing pipe offcuts, tiles, tree log offcuts, pinecones, textiles, ropes, buckets, shells, tarps etc. Please see your child's educator if you have any questions about loose parts.

Special events

Our Service organises special events throughout the year. We will communicate these to families in a timely manner. We encourage parent input in all aspects of these events. Some of these include fundraising, celebrations, and information sessions.



Suggestions

Parents are welcome to visit or call the Service at any time. If you have any suggestions or ideas on how we best can work together in the Service, please let us know.

If you have any concerns, please see your child's educator or the Nominated Supervisor. We have a grievance procedure if you would like to formally raise any concerns.

Community Information

We have a community noticeboard at the entry to our Service. This board is used to display relevant programs, notices, updates and reminders for children and families. Please ensure you check this on a regular basis.

Our staff can also provide information for families about a range of topics including early intervention; supported playgroups; Child Care Subsidy; Aboriginal Child and Family centres; health clinics.

Health and Hygiene

Our Service has effective and systematic risk management systems in place to identify any possible risk or hazards to our learning environment and practices. All staff diligently practice and model personal hygiene measures such as hand washing, cough and sneeze etiquette and disposal of tissues. We request that all children and visitors to our service wash their hands or use the alcohol-based hand sanitiser upon arrival.

Our educators teach and model correct hand washing techniques to children and regularly clean and disinfect high touch objects throughout the service to reduce the spread of infection.

When should I **not** send my child to the Service?

Our Service is a busy place for the bodies and minds of our children. We are not equipped to care for sick children; however, we will do everything we can to comfort a child who has become sick whilst in our care.



To minimise the spread of infections and diseases, and maintain a healthy environment for all children, educators, and staff, we implement recommendations developed by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)- *Staying Healthy in Childcare*. Our policies and procedures for *Sick Children* and the *Control of Infectious Diseases* are available for all families to view.

Please monitor your child's health and do not bring your child to the Service if they are suffering from an infectious disease/illness or are generally unwell.

If your child becomes ill whilst at the Service, we will contact you or an authorised nominee to collect your child. When your child is collected, you will be provided with a *Suspected Illness Report* completed by the educator which includes information about your child's illness, their symptoms, general behaviour, and any action taken. You will be requested to sign and acknowledge the details in this record.

If children have a high temperature that is continuing to rise regardless of appropriate measures being taken and a parent or emergency contact cannot be reached, an ambulance may be called.

Your child should not attend the Service if they have had Paracetamol within 24 hours for a temperature. Children who are on antibiotics are to be kept away from the Service for the first 24 hours to allow the child to rest and the risk of spreading the infection to decrease. If your child has been vomiting or had diarrhoea, they will be excluded for 48 hours. For certain illnesses, a medical clearance certificate may be required before your child returns.

Infectious Diseases

The National Health and Medical Research Council have supplied the following information regarding minimum exclusion period for children from an early childhood education and care service. Please inform staff if your child has any of the following so that we can notify the Public Health Unit and other families of any infectious disease/illness. (Confidentiality is always maintained).

Recommended exclusion periods- Poster *Staying Healthy: Preventing Infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services*



CONDITION	EXCLUSION
Hand, foot and mouth disease	Until all blisters have dried
HIB	Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is received
Hepatitis A	Exclude until a medical certificate of recovery is received, but not before 7 days after the onset of jaundice or illness
Herpes- Cold sores	Young children unable to comply with good hygiene practices should be excluded while the lesion is weeping. Lesions to be covered by dressing, where possible
Influenzas and flu-like illnesses	Exclude until well
Measles	Exclude for at least 4 days after onset of rash
Meningitis (Bacterial)	Exclude until well
Meningococcal Infection	Exclude until adequate carrier eradication therapy has been completed
Mumps	Exclude for 9 days or until swelling goes down (whichever is sooner)
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	Exclude the child for 5 days after starting antibiotic treatment
Rubella (German measles)	Exclude until fully recovered or for at least 4 days after the onset of rash
Salmonella	Exclude until diarrhoea ceases
Streptococcal Infection (Including scarlet fever)	Exclude until the child has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and the child feels well
Tuberculosis	Exclude until a medical certificate from an appropriate health authority is received
Worms (intestinal)	Exclude if diarrhoea present

If your child is unimmunised according to our records, then they will be excluded until the threat has passed and upon advice of the Public Health Unit

Immunisation

The Public Health Act 2010 requires all families to provide an Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) for their child prior to enrolment in an early childhood education and care service. The immunisation history statement must show that each enrolled child is up to date with immunisations for their age.



The relevant vaccinations are those under the National Immunisation Program (NIP), which covers the vaccines usually administered before age five. These vaccinations must be recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

The only unimmunised children who can be enrolled in childcare (after 1 January 2018) are those who are on a recognised catch-up schedule or those who are unimmunised due to medical reasons as described in the Australian Immunisation Handbook. Parents must provide an AIR Immunisation History Form or an AIR Immunisation Medical Exemption Form upon enrolment.

In the case of an outbreak of any vaccine preventable disease, management will contact families as soon as possible. We ask that families immediately inform our Service if someone in their immediate family is diagnosed with an infectious disease to help minimise the risk to other children, families, and educators.

We are legally required to notify the Public Health Unit of any cases of vaccine preventable diseases occurring at our Service. For an up-to-date immunisation schedule, please refer to your enrolment pack.

Medication

If your child requires medication whilst at our Service, you must complete an *Administration of Medication Record* to give your consent for an educator to administer prescribed medication to your child. Medication must be given directly to an educator for appropriate safe storage.

Medication will only be administered by a teacher or Lead Educator with current first aid qualifications.

Educators can only administer medication that is:

- prescribed by a registered medical practitioner (with instructions attached to the medication or in written form from the medical practitioner)
- in its original packaging and have the original label clearly showing your child's name
- before the expiry/use by date.

Upon collection of your child at the end of the day, you or an authorised person will be requested to sign the *Administration of Medication Form*.



Incidents, injury, or trauma

We aim to minimise the risk of accidents and injury as much as possible however, through play, exploration and adventure, children sometimes have accidents. We have an educator with a First Aid, emergency asthma, anaphylaxis management and CPR qualification on shift at all times we provide education and care to children. First Aid kits are located throughout the Service.

In the event of a minor injury, first aid will be provided as required. An *Accident/ Injury report form* will be completed and when you collect your child, you will be notified about the injury and asked to acknowledge and sign the record. If your child injures their head, even if it is a small bump, you will be contacted to advise you of the injury. Our educators will continue to monitor your child closely and advise if you should come and collect them.

If an injury or incident is serious and we believe urgent medical attention is required, the Nominated Supervisor will call an ambulance. They will then contact you in a timely manner. If we cannot contact a parent or guardian, we will attempt to contact an authorised nominee. Where you or your authorised nominee cannot be contacted or you are unable to meet the ambulance at the Service, we will send one of our educators/staff members to accompany your child in the ambulance.

An *Accident/ Injury report form* will be completed, and a parent will be required to acknowledge and sign this record. A copy of any documentation from the hospital or treating doctor will also be requested. Our Service will also be required to notify the Regulatory Authority in the event of any serious incident or injury. In these circumstances, you may be contacted by our Approved Provider and the Regulatory Authority to follow up the incident and actions taken by our Service.

Injury on Intake

If a child presents to the Centre with an injury, parents will be asked to complete and sign an *Injury on Intake* form. This form simply acknowledges that the child's injury was already in evidence on arrival.



Safety in our Service

Emergency and evacuation procedures

Our Service conducts risk assessments regularly and develops emergency management plans for a range of possible hazards. Throughout the year we follow our policies and procedures to carry out emergency and evacuation drills. These may occur at any given time throughout the day and week to ensure all children know what to do in case of an emergency. Emergency and evacuation drills are carried out in a well-organised and orderly manner and will simulate a range of possible emergency situations such as fire (including bush fire), lock down or flood. Under regulations, we are required to practice emergency and evacuation drills every three months.

Educators are trained to use the fire extinguishers that are in the Service. An emergency evacuation plan and lock down procedure are displayed in every room and exit locations are clearly indicated.

Car Park Procedures

As the Centre shares a car park with Genesis Christian College, families are encouraged to consider peak congestion periods between 8:15am-8:45am and 2:45pm-3:15pm. We ask parents to be extremely mindful of danger when arriving and departing from our Service.

- Adhere to the 10KPH speed limit within the College grounds
- Please always hold your child's hand in the carpark area
- Be alert of reversing drivers in the car park as it is very difficult to see small children
- Never leave a child or infant in the car unattended
- Never leave the front entry door/gate open
- Always do a visual check around your vehicle before driving
- Please ensure children do not enter areas in the Service that are for adults/staff only.

Please do not reverse park in the Little Genesis parking areas, where tow bars impinge on footpath and walkway access for children.



Front Door Security

To exit the centre, parents are required to push a security button in order to unlock the door. In order to ensure the safety of all the children at Little Genesis, this exit button is strictly for parent use only.

Upon enrolment, you will also be issued with a pin code to the front door, which you allow you access into the building. If you do not have your code, please press the doorbell located to the right of the front door, on the brick wall. This is a security measure to protect children and staff during the opening hours of the centre.

Workplace Health and Safety

We are committed in providing an environment that is safe and healthy for every employee, volunteer, child, family, and visitor. We have made every reasonable effort to minimise the risk of serious injury and request all persons to our Service to adhere to our policies regarding Workplace Health and Safety.

Each morning, our educators conduct daily safety checks of the indoor and outdoor environment and will alert management of any potential risk or hazard to children to ensure this is rectified before children use the equipment or area.

We welcome all feedback regarding the safety of our Service. If you see something that concerns you regarding safe work practices, the safety of building and equipment or general work health and safety issues, please contact the Nominated Supervisor immediately.

Social Media

We use social media to communicate, share information and celebrate what is happening in our Service with enrolled families and our service community.

We promote safety and wellbeing of all children and are committed to ensure safe online environments when engaging in digital technology including social media. Our social media accounts are managed by the Nominated Supervisor and the Centre Manager and we set the highest level of privacy and security settings on the accounts. Content is regularly scanned, and any offensive language or comments removed immediately, and these users blocked.



Photographs of your child will only be added if written authorisation has been provided on the enrolment form.

We maintain appropriate privacy of families, children, and educators by not publishing any personal information online.

Stay connected and find us on <https://www.facebook.com/LittleGenesisELC>

Privacy and Confidentiality

We are committed to protecting the privacy and confidentiality of children, individuals and families and have policies in place to ensure strict confidentiality is maintained.

To plan programs for your child/ren, we need to collect information from you. This information helps us to assess and plan programs in partnership with you. We do not disclose personal information about you or your child to other people or organisations without your consent unless we are required to do so by law. We do not ask for personal information about you or your child from other professionals or organisations without your consent. You can look at the information in your child's file at any time or request a copy of information in the file.

Our *Privacy and Confidentiality Policy* is available to view at any time. This policy sets out how we ensure our Service acts in accordance with the requirements of the Australian Privacy Principles and the Privacy Act 1988. We ensure all personal information is protected, records and documents are maintained and stored in accordance with Education and Care Services National Regulations and that all staff understand the requirements of the Notifiable Data Breaches (NDB) scheme. Any Privacy complaints will be managed promptly and in a consistent manner as outlined in our *Grievance Policy*.

Our Service is required to keep and maintain detailed records about children, parents, and staff in accordance with relative legislation contained in the National Law and Regulations and Family Assistance Law. We ensure all records are stored in a secure and locked location. We must keep records for the prescribed periods of times as legislated related to child enrolment, attendance, medication records, incident, injury, trauma and illness records, child assessments and any relevant legal information/documents. Full details about record keeping is available in our *Record Keeping and Retention Policy*.



Genesis Christian College Enrolments

Placement at Little Genesis Early Learning Centre does not guarantee enrolment into Genesis Christian College. Families wishing to enrol their students into Genesis Christian College should make a separate Application for Enrolment with the College for grades Prep Year to Year 12.

The application guide and enrolment policy for Genesis Christian College is available on the College website- <https://www.genesis.qld.edu.au/enrol-now/enrolment-information/>



Parent Acknowledgement

I/We have read this handbook carefully. I/We understand the commitment that you are undertaking providing education and care for our child, and our responsibilities to the Service.

I/we have completed the enrolment form at the Service and provided the required documentation for our child. I/We have read and agree to comply with the requirements set out in this handbook and in the Service's policies.

Family name	
Parent Name	
Child/ren's Name	
Parent/Guardian signature	
Parent/Guardian signature	

Please list what skills talents, interest, and culture that you and your family (not forgetting grandparents) are able to share with the Service.

