

*The Cathedral School*

# EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

The Early Learning Centre is an integral part of The Cathedral School's commitment to providing children with the best possible environment in which to **explore, learn and grow**.

Children from 6 weeks to school age are able to participate in age-appropriate programs under the watchful eye of professional and caring staff. With an emphasis on learning through play and positive social interactions with peers, children begin developing the framework for a life-long educational journey.



**The Cathedral School**  
of St Anne & St James  
TOWNSVILLE

## PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

The Cathedral Early Learning Centre is the commencement of a child's learning journey within The Cathedral School. Our vision is to be the benchmark of excellence in early childhood education and care. We encourage and guide children to become independent lifelong learners through engaging them in high quality, developmentally appropriate educational programs delivered in partnership with families by compassionate, dedicated and qualified staff in a safe, supportive and inclusive environment.

## DAILY PROGRAM

As children progress through their early childhood years, they undertake a journey of discovery. Each day in the play-based early childhood program brings exciting new experiences which gradually build their understanding of the world and their place in it, and develop their confidence to participate in this world.

The daily program is structured to include both indoor and outdoor play, group and individual experiences, teacher-directed and child-initiated experiences, plus supervised meal times and rest time for all children, according to their age and requirements.

## ASSESSMENT & RATING

The Early Learning Centre operates an approved service under the Education and Care Services National Law Act 2011. The Centre meets government requirements regarding activities, programming, staff qualifications and child-staff ratios according to the current legislation.



Assessments of the service are conducted by the regulatory authority - the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) - against the National Quality Standard

and National Law to ensure that the quality of education and care is being maintained. In the most recent assessment, the Early Learning Centre was rated as 'meeting' in all areas.

## HOURS OF OPERATION

The Centre is open from 7.00am to 6.00pm. It is closed on weekends and public holidays, and there is a three-week closure around Christmas each year. The dates of the closure depend on when Christmas falls.

## EDUCATIONAL FRAMEWORK

The Early Learning Centre offers an integrated play-based program which offers every child the opportunity and the time to play, to discover and explore, to question and predict, to wonder, to imagine, and to make things happen in a personally significant way.

The curriculum in the Early Learning Centre is aligned with the National Quality Framework.

The curriculum documents used include:

- The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia, and
- The Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guidelines

The Early Years Learning Framework aims to extend and enrich children's learning from birth to five years, while the Kindergarten Curriculum is specifically designed to further enrich children's learning in the year prior to their entry to Prep at The Cathedral School.

The Early Learning Centre has six rooms, each catering to a specific age range, in addition to multiple Kindergarten rooms. The rooms are geared to the children's stage of development

and qualified, dedicated staff provide developmentally appropriate programs designed to nurture each child's physical, social, emotional, cognitive, spiritual and creative development.

The Walker Learning Approach supports our Centre's programs to ensure a focus on personalised learning for each child and the development of strong relationships between the children and their educators.

## DISCOVERERS (FROM 6 WEEKS)

From their earliest days, babies are discovering things about themselves and the world around them. They learn through sensory play in a well-resourced environment that stimulates their development. Caring staff follow the necessary routines to ensure a smooth transition for each child from home to the Centre.

## EXPLORERS (FROM 12 MONTHS)

For toddlers, play is the way they learn about themselves and the world. Through their explorations, they begin to master many fundamental physical, social and intellectual skills and concepts. Qualified staff foster this play in a nurturing environment, giving children the confidence to explore and grow.

## INVESTIGATORS (FROM 15 MONTHS)

Children learn by doing. Children are offered high quality play experiences that support their natural quest to find out 'why'. The planned experiences allow them to investigate new concepts and give them opportunities to make choices and be responsible within the friendly play based program.

## VENTURERS (FROM 18 MONTHS)

As children grow, they continually venture into the unknown. This is how they learn about their world and the people and things within it. The Lead Educator provide a variety of engaging and stimulating experiences to encourage the children to meet challenges, use their initiative and build a healthy self-esteem.

## CREATORS/PRE-KINDERGARTEN (FROM 30 MONTHS)

The world of play develops into planned and experimental exploring, problem-solving, imagining and creating. As relationships develop with their peers, children are encouraged to make play safe, just and equitable for all participants.

## INVENTORS/PRE-KINDERGARTEN (FROM 36 MONTHS)

As children develop the capacity to pretend, their imagination enables them to invent a fictional world where they can explore roles and relationships. Through such experiences, friendship groups are formed, power relationships are negotiated and life experiences are examined. Such symbolic play is crucial in supporting children's developing early literacy skills.

## KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM (3.5 YEARS +)

The Cathedral School Early Learning Centre operates a Queensland Government Approved Kindergarten Program which is an ideal preparation for The Cathedral Junior School's Prep year. The transition from the Early Learning Centre to Prep in The Cathedral Junior School is streamlined. The Prep Application Fee is waived for children enrolled in the Early Learning Centre\* and Cathedral Kindergarten children receive priority entry to Prep at The Cathedral Junior School the following year. All Prep applicants must still complete a separate Online Enrolment Form and undertake the standard enrolment process.

\*Upon payment of the Early Learning Centre's Acceptance Fee - \$500.



The Kindergarten curriculum focuses on child-centred experiences which foster Identity, Connectedness, Wellbeing, Active Learning and Communicating. Working alongside children, qualified early childhood teachers initiate opportunities for them to express their thoughts and ideas, to test their theories and to reflect upon their thinking. The curriculum is emergent and play based and planning is differentiated to ensure that children's strengths are built upon.

**Children may attend Kindergarten for full day or school hours only in a 3, 4 or 5 day program.**

Kindergarten entry age is related to the government-regulated Prep entry age (i.e. must turn 4 on or before 30 June the year prior to starting Prep).

Date of Birth	Kindergarten	Prep
July 2015 – June 2016	2020	2021
July 2016 – June 2017	2021	2022
July 2017 – June 2018	2022	2023
July 2018 – June 2019	2023	2024

### SPECIALIST LESSONS

The Kindergarten, Inventors and Creators classes benefit from specialist lessons by The Cathedral School teachers in the areas of The Arts, Physical Education and Christian Education. Kindergarten classes also access the Wonder Hub and are invited to participate in special activities with the Junior School students.

### RELIGIOUS PARTICIPATION

In keeping with the Anglican ethos and values of The Cathedral School, children in the Early Learning Centre will be introduced to stories from the Bible and will celebrate important Christian events in the calendar (e.g. Easter and Christmas).

### PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT & COMMUNICATION

Parental involvement in the child's program establishes continuity between home and the Centre. Parents are welcome to visit, contribute to the programs and share in the activities of the Centre.

Open and honest communication between families and Centre staff will provide the best outcomes for your child. The online My Family Portal gives access to information about your child's program and participation.

### HEALTH & WELFARE

The Early Learning Centre is committed to the health and well-being of children in our care, their families and our staff. We support and promote Queensland's immunisation laws, sun safety habits and healthy eating guidelines. We also ensure that the children's program involves appropriate amounts of physical activity and rest each day.

### HOW TO APPLY

To register your interest in a place at the Early Learning Centre, please use our online portal:

[www.cathedral.qld.edu.au/elc-registration-form](http://www.cathedral.qld.edu.au/elc-registration-form).

If you are unable to register online, please contact the Centre for assistance on **07 4722 2093**.

Your application will be acknowledged and you will be requested to pay the registration fee to have your child's name placed on the Wait List.

**The position of your child on the Wait List is linked to these factors:**

- the child's date of birth
- the date the application is received
- the family's connection with The Cathedral School (siblings or other family members at the school)
- the Australian Government's Priority of Access Guidelines

**When there is the likelihood of a position becoming available for your child, we will contact you to:**

- attend an interview with the Coordinator
- provide the child's original birth certificate and immunisation records for sighting/copying
- complete a detailed Enrolment Form
- pay the Confirmation Fee (\$500) within 14 days of being offered a place in the Centre.

Most placements will commence from January, but there are sometimes vacancies during the year which may be filled from the Wait List. Places offered in the ELC will be for specific days, and are not transferable.

### TRANSITION TO PREP

Prep enrolment is secured in your child's Kindergarten year. However, it is important to reserve your place early.

In fact, some of our babies are already booked in for Prep! A separate application is required for school entry.

You can apply online at:

[www.cathedral.qld.edu.au/enrol-information](http://www.cathedral.qld.edu.au/enrol-information)

**It is never too early to apply!**







## EARLY LEARNING CENTRE FEES

Valid at 1 January 2021.

### Enrolment Fees

Registration Fee (not refundable) <i>At time of application</i>	\$50
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Confirmation Fee (not refundable) <i>On acceptance of a place. Includes Prep Application Fee.</i>	\$500
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### Daily Program Fees

Discoverers, Explorers, Investigators and Venturers	\$103
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Creators and Inventors (Pre-Kindergarten)	\$98
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Kindergarten (Long day program)	\$98
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Kindergarten (School hours only)	\$85
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Fees take effect January 2021, however the School Board reserves the right to change the fees if necessary. Parents will be advised in writing at least one month before a new fee structure comes into effect.

## FEE PAYMENTS & GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE WITH CHILD CARE FEES

The Cathedral School Early Learning Centre is an approved child care provider, so parents can access government assistance to help with the cost of child care. For further information on your eligibility and claim process, please visit [www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/child-care-subsidy](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/child-care-subsidy)

Fees are charged for days booked and are applied to parents' accounts each week. Payments are processed electronically using the bank or credit card details provided by parents. Families can select a weekly or fortnightly payment arrangement.

There are no refunds for booked days that are not used (including public holidays), and we are unable to provide make-up days for your child in place of the days they have been absent.

If you require any further information, please contact the Early Learning Centre:

Email [elc@cathedral.qld.edu.au](mailto:elc@cathedral.qld.edu.au)

Phone **07 4722 2093**



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