



MLC EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY AN EARLY LEARNING CENTRE?

The early years are the most critical stage of a child's development. We nurture the children in our care to build relationships, promote social and emotional development, and build a foundation for future academic success while supporting families to balance their family and work commitments.

WHEN WILL IT OPEN?

We are currently seeking expressions of interest from families. The new Centre will open in February 2018, pending expressions of interest.

WHERE IS IT LOCATED?

The new Centre will be on the Methodist Ladies' College campus in Claremont. The indoor and outdoor environments have been purposely designed to provide high quality care and engaging early learning experiences for each child. The design includes specific safety features, including secure access to indoor and outdoor areas.

WHAT HOURS WILL IT OPERATE?

The Centre will operate Monday to Friday, 48 weeks of the year from 6.30am to 6.30pm, only closing for four weeks over the Christmas holiday period.

CAN I CHOOSE THE DAYS AND TIMES MY CHILD ATTENDS?

Yes. Enrolments are required to be a minimum of two days to enable a calm, positive and successful transition.

Wherever possible, we will be flexible with families to support their changing needs.

WHAT AGES DO YOU CATER FOR?

The Centre will cater for the following age groups with specialist staff available in each group:

6 to 18 months; and

18 months to 3 years.

HOW MANY CHILDREN WILL BE IN EACH AGE GROUP?

Our focus is on smaller group sizes within each group:

6 to 18 months | maximum total of 16 children

18 months to 3 years | maximum total of 20 children

WHAT IS THE CHILD TO CAREGIVER RATIO?

Our minimum ratios are given below and we are committed to having additional staff wherever there is a need:

1 caregiver to 4 children, for children aged 6 to 18 months

1 caregiver to 5 children, for children aged 18 months to 3 years

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO THE CAREGIVERS HAVE?

Highly experienced and qualified early childhood educators will provide consistent care and exceptional early learning programmes for the children.

The qualifications for our staff will be displayed in each room and each educator will be happy to discuss their qualification and additional ongoing professional learning with parents.

WHAT IS YOUR EARLY YEARS EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY?

The MLC Early Learning Centre is a warm, secure and inviting space where families are valued as their child's first teacher. The educators will work in partnership with parents to nurture and support each child to develop and thrive.

Each child's individually planned programme will be shared with parents, and educators will provide regular updates as well as daily feedback.

WHAT RANGE OF ACTIVITIES WILL MY CHILD PARTICIPATE IN?

Children in the MLC Early Learning Centre will access a wonderful variety of indoor and outdoor learning experiences which build on each child's natural curiosity, and promote creativity and a love of learning, as well as social interaction.

WHAT IF MY CHILD NEEDS ADDITIONAL SUPPORT?

Our educators are there to support parents and to provide additional support and referrals when needed. Educators are highly knowledgeable on topics such as early education, early learning and development, breastfeeding, toilet training and age-appropriate developmental milestones.

MLC has an onsite nurse who is available between 8am-5pm to assess any medical concerns which may arise during the day and to determine if it is appropriate for your child to remain at the Centre. Occupational therapists and speech therapists are available to provide assessments or support any child that may require it.

WILL MLC PROVIDE MEALS FOR MY CHILD OR DO I BRING MY OWN?

All meals and snacks will be prepared on a daily basis according to your child's dietary and cultural needs, and the relevant health and safety standards in the onsite kitchen. There is no additional charge for meals and snacks as this is all included in the fees.

WHAT ARE THE SLEEP AND NAP ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CHILDREN?

Parents are encouraged to communicate openly with staff about their child's sleep requirements. We are flexible and understand the changing needs of each child.

WILL THERE BE AN ORIENTATION PROGRAMME?

Our programme is unique. An Early Learning Centre educator will visit the family home to establish a relationship with both the caregivers and your child.

A personalised parent orientation of the Early Learning Centre will be provided to each family. This allows for parents to ask their important questions and provide information on their child's unique needs and abilities.

Upon commencement at the Early Learning Centre, parents participate in a transition programme to ensure that their child is comfortable in the environment and feels a strong connection to the educator prior to separation. Parents then go on to their day in the knowledge that their child is settling in and enjoying their new environment.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

The fee will be \$130 per day for this all-inclusive service. There will be no further costs.

Our new service will be eligible for Australian Government fee relief.

CAN MY CHILD CONTINUE TO ATTEND MLC FOR PRE-KINDERGARTEN AND BEYOND?

Yes. Boys who attend the Centre can continue at MLC until the end of Kindergarten. Girls can continue through to Year 12.

MY CHILD AND I ATTEND THE MLC PLAYGROUP. WILL THE PLAYGROUP CONTINUE?

Yes. Playgroup will continue.

WILL THE OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS SERVICE CONTINUE?

Yes. Our before and after school care programmes will continue on campus.

WHAT PARKING ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE?

Parking will be available on campus, within a short walking distance to the Centre.

HOW DO I ENROL?

We are currently taking expressions of interest (Eoi).

You will need to complete an Eoi Form and return to MLC Admissions by Friday 28 July. This can be done by contacting our Head of Admissions, Chavaune Francis on 9383 0269 or cfrancis@mlc.wa.edu.au.

You will then be placed on our waiting list and will be advised on the progress of the Early Learning Centre.

WHEN WILL A DECISION BE MADE?

We will communicate with you by mid-August with the next steps.