



**Nazareth**  
EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE



**2021** Family Handbook  
Early Childhood Centre Information



**Nazareth**  
EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE

“connecting  
faith  
family &  
education”

## Our Vision

We are a Catholic Community of welcome,  
connecting faith, family and education.

## Our Mission

Inspired by Jesus of Nazareth and our Patrons we are people  
of justice each committed to building community, nourishing  
family life and making the world a better place.

*“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full”  
John 10:10*

Nazareth Catholic Community  
Community Services, ECC, Primary & Secondary College  
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# OurWelcome

**Mrs Natasha Walc**  
Acting Early Years Director

Nazareth Catholic Community's mission is reflected in our daily interactions and actions. We are inspired by Jesus of Nazareth and our Patrons, we are people of justice each committed to building community, nourishing family life and making the world a better place.

Nazareth Early Childhood Centre (ECC) is part of the wider Nazareth Catholic Community, the Primary College is our neighbour on the Findon campus and the Secondary College is located at Flinders Park.

Nazareth ECC is an exciting and engaging learning environment for your child. The ECC recognises the uniqueness of each child and the importance of building a learning community where the educators recognise the potential of every child and the need to provide opportunities for growth. The educators offer learning opportunities to assist in developing the child's sense of wonder and curiosity. Children are encouraged to investigate and explore as they make sense of their world. Nazareth Catholic Community fosters the whole child; their social, emotional, physical and spiritual wellbeing and we provide opportunities for each child to reach their full potential. We value children as competent and capable. Our indoor and outdoor learning environments and the way our educators work with children reflects this. At Nazareth ECC we believe that children learn best through play and in an environment where they feel safe, secure and free to express themselves.

Nazareth is a place of joy and wonder. It is a place where we believe relationships are at the heart of good teaching and learning, a mutual respect and responsibility exists between the Early Childhood Centre, home and the wider community. Families play a vital role in their child's development and education. We encourage and welcome family involvement at Nazareth ECC.

My hope is that this booklet provides a window into our world of living, loving and working together.

*in Joyful Hope*

# Why Nazareth

The ECC is a special place that values the wonder of childhood. It is a community that partners with parents to provide the best educational start for your child.

Our educators work alongside children as they grow so that they develop skills and emotional capacity that will enable them to flourish.

Our centre is staffed with university qualified Early Childhood Education teachers, and educators with a Diploma and or Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care.

We are licensed for 100 children a day from six months to school age.

As part of the Nazareth Catholic Community we offer more than a stand-alone facility. As a centre for child and family wellbeing, we offer programs for children, parents and the extended community. There are playgroups, adult education workshops and fitness classes for our older members plus much, much more.

We have a unique and valuable professional relationship with Flinders University through; Occupational Therapy, Dietetics & Nutrition, Speech Pathology and Physiotherapy faculties.

This provides for us, and families, expert observations, assessment and direction for early intervention. Through this partnership we are able to put in place strategies to support children's development.

Located on the NCC Findon campus means we have access to many facilities; including the Library, Chapel, Café and community gathering spaces, Gym and specialised sports equipment, large play spaces, oval, playgrounds, undercover areas and hardcourts, and specialist lessons with the Italian teachers.

We are blessed to be nestled amongst many and it is true that here, at the ECC, the village helps raise the child.





# AboutUs

The ECC is open from 7.00am – 6.00pm Monday to Friday. Children can come for all or part of the day. We would suggest for children’s health and wellbeing they are not here more than eight hours. We have one daily fee. We close for approximately two weeks over the Christmas/New Year period and have a closure day for staff professional development. You will be given ample warning regarding this date to enable you to make alternative arrangements.

We have a minimum attendance requirement that supports each child to build attachments and connections with staff and other children in their room. To provide continuity and to engage children in a quality program, a child must attend the ECC for a minimum of two days.

In the early years the word fragmentation refers to the number of transitions a child has in a day, each time a different significant adult takes over, the child’s world changes. We encourage parents to place a kindy child solely at the ECC. In regards to splitting your child’s week, by attending an alternate kindy doesn’t allow for strong partnerships. One setting gives your child the predictability with routines, people and environments. This continuity enables the child to build strong identity and self-confidence.

Our centre is set up to maximise and allow children to develop naturally with their peers. We have four rooms that are named after the patrons of Nazareth Catholic Community. Below is a table that outlines our room structure.



Room	Age Guide	Class Size
<b>MacKillop</b>	6 months – 18/24 months	12 children
<b>McAuley / Catherine</b>	18/24 months – approx. 3 years	28 children
<b>Dominic</b>	3 – 5 years	30 children
<b>Romero</b>	3 – 5 years	30 children

Information to note is:

- Some fulltime positions are shared therefore there may be part time staff in a room
- Ages in rooms will vary for individual children and we reserve the right to make the decision of child placement based on our professional training
- We run monthly tours of our centre, please check our website for dates and booking information

# CentreOperations

## Fee Schedule

Our centre is a non-profit incorporated body that is integrated into the Nazareth Catholic Community. We aim to provide exceptional service in both staffing and resourcing. Our fees are set at the beginning of each year and we reserve the right to make changes throughout the year if required. Fees include morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. Payments of fees can be made at the ECC reception, between the hours of 8:30am - 4:30pm (Monday to Friday).

Daily rate: \$121.00

Kindy rate: \$91.00 (if attending 8.15am – 3.45pm)

These rates do not take into account your eligibility for Child Care Subsidy (CCS). Please contact The Department of Human Services to determine your level of government financial support. We have a funded preschool (kindy) and as such attract Universal Access Funding.

Child Care Subsidy is available to all families who are Australian Residents if the child meets immunisation requirements and parents meet eligibility requirements. Entitlement is determined by an activity test which determines the number of hours of subsidised care to which families are entitled.

Continuity of enrolment is jeopardised if fees are not paid fortnightly. Please note, Debitsuccess is our preferred method of payment, this ensures your fee payment is always up to date.

At the end of each year an updated Financial Information document is distributed to families with updated details on fees and any changes in rules or regulations (including late pick-up fees).

## Public Holidays

As per CCS regulations our centre is closed on public holidays. Fees apply if a public holiday closure is on your child's usual day of attendance.

## Family Holidays & Booking Cancellation

It is important for your child to have this break and we encourage all children to take some time out during the year. We offer 10 days holidays per year at a reduced rate. To support this we offer a discount of \$40.00 on these days. You still receive your CCS. This discount only applies to full day fees. **Our Kindy structure does not allow for discount for children who take holidays during term time.** A holiday request form must be completed 14 days prior to leave in order to access this discount.

If you are cancelling your child's booking at Nazareth Early Childhood Centre, at least 28 days' notice must be provided by completing the Holiday and Cancellation Form. Holiday and Cancellation Forms are available on the information table in the hallway.

## Centre Enrolment

To join the ECC community you need to complete a Waitlist Form and return it to the ECC front desk or the Findon Finance Office with an application fee of \$50.00. This is a once only fee and is non-refundable. Your child's name will be placed on our wait list. For many reasons your child must be born before they can go on the wait list. We recommend you call every three months to check your status. If at any time you want to be withdrawn from the Wait List, please call and inform us.

To ensure that the ECC adheres to Long Day Care regulations, priority access will be given to children falling into the following categories:

Priority 1: A child at risk of abuse or neglect

Priority 2: A child of a single parent who satisfies or of parents who both satisfy (government accountable) work/training/studying commitments

Priority 3: Siblings of children attending the ECC

Priority 4: Any other child

It is important that at the time of enrolment you complete forms openly and honestly. Full disclosure of your child's needs is expected as this supports us to be prepared once they are offered a place.

Please note that enrolment to Nazareth Early Childhood Centre does not give automatic entry into Nazareth Catholic College, as the college enrolment falls under a different set of criteria.



## Health & Safety

We believe that being healthy and feeling safe are integral to wellbeing. We provide an environment where children feel connected and secure. Any person 14 years and over working in a voluntary capacity at the ECC are required to hold a Catholic Police Clearance (CPC), DCSI clearance, Teachers Registration or Working with Children Check (WWCC). If you would like to volunteer or attend excursions please speak with ECC staff to assist you with this process.

We support the government objectives of full immunisation of all children. Upon enrolment, each child's immunisation status will be recorded. Children who are not immunised may be subject to exclusion periods. Please be mindful children who are not immunised do not attract CCS as per government guidelines.

Although we take every precaution to ensure your child are safe, we value authentic and challenging learning experiences which encourages children to independently assess risks.

As you can understand sometimes accidents happen, however staff are responsive, comforting and tend to the child's needs. We keep families informed of injuries through a variety of communication methods. This could include a conversation when you collect your child, a phone conversation and for more **serious incidents** you will be asked to sign a pink incident form.

## Illnesses & Medical Information

If your child is unwell and is unable to participate in the daily activities of the ECC, the best place for them is in the comfort of their own home. We welcome children back to the centre when they have recovered and ready to engage fully in the learning program.

Please inform the ECC if your child will not be attending the centre for the day due to illness. If a Medical Practitioner has diagnosed your child with an infectious disease please inform the ECC immediately so we can inform the wider community, when appropriate. Families will be notified of infectious diseases via the notice boards located at the beginning of the hallway and in each of the learning environments and via email.

If you arrive at the ECC at the beginning of the day and it is clear that your child is unwell we will ask you to take them home.

If your child has been prescribed medication for an illness, a daily medication form will need to be completed with the child's educator for any short term medications or conditions. Please note we do not administer pain relief.

## Immunisation Requirements

Following changes to the South Australian Public Health Act 2011 (the Act), from 7 August 2020, children will not be able to enrol in

or attend early childhood services unless all immunisation requirements are met.

The Act states:

An early childhood service must not enrol a child if all immunisation requirements are not met; a child cannot attend, or continue to attend, an early childhood service if all immunisation requirements are not met; early childhood services must keep a current copy of an approved immunisation record for each child enrolled in, or attending that service; approved immunisation records must be supplied by parents/guardians to the early childhood service at specified times.

## Allergy Aware Zone

We monitor children with allergies closely. This discussion is held at enrolment and alternative meals are prepared when required. Please keep us informed of your child's needs. If your child has an allergy, dietary requirement or diagnosed medical condition, you will be required to complete a Medical Condition Risk Minimisation Plan. The completion of this plan will take place in consultation with the Assistant Manager. Children will not be able to start at the ECC if the relevant forms or medication have not been provided.

We ask families not to bring food into the centre at pick up or drop off, to ensure all our children with allergies are safe.

## Meals

We are committed to providing nutritionally balanced meals. Our centre offers delicious and nutritious meals for morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.

Our menu follows a four week rotation cycle and we have a seasonal menu plan. Our menu is displayed for parents to read and recipes are available upon request. Any changes to the daily menu are written on the message board.

We employ a qualified cook who is well trained and experienced. All meals are prepared fresh using quality ingredients. ECC staff are trained in Safe Food Handling procedures. This enables meal time procedures to meet council regulations and requirements. Children are encouraged by educators to drink water throughout the day to remain hydrated.

Our Catholic identity is integral to our community, therefore meal times are a social and enjoyable gathering where adults and children come together to share a meal. We emulate family experiences and prepare children for life.

## Rest Time

All children require some down time during their day. After lunch in the ECC all rooms plan sleep, rest or quiet time. We work in partnership with families to maintain babies sleep routines.







### Mobile Phones

Please be mindful that we are an educational setting. We appreciate you conversing on your phone outside of the centre.

### Car Parking

The car park out the front of the ECC is for our families exclusively. It is not very big and as you can appreciate it is important that the parks are free for our precious little people. **Families who also have children in the school are not to use this for school drop off/pick up.** Please do not leave your car in our car park if you are entering the school grounds. There is ample street parking nearby should you not be able to find a park.

### Sun safety

Our centre is SunSmart. We protect children and staff from too much UV to help minimise future skin cancer risk. Staff access the daily sun protection times via the Sun Smart App or [www.myuv.com.au](http://www.myuv.com.au) to assist with implementing this policy. When the UV levels are three and above the 5 SunSmart steps will be followed. Visit [www.sunsmart.com.au](http://www.sunsmart.com.au) for more information.

Children must wear a broad brim hat, have their shoulders covered and apply their first application of sunscreen at home. Sunscreen will be reapplied as required throughout the day.

### What to Wear

Dressing your children in clothing that is comfortable, weather appropriate and practical for play, mess and dirt allows them to have the best possible experience each and every day.

To easily identify children within the 3-5 Neighbourhood we ask that families dress their child in a yellow polo shirt and black trackpants, shorts or leggings. This can be paired with a black jumper/windcheater/jacket when the weather is cooler.

Children must wear well-fitted sandals or shoes as thongs/crocs are not appropriate or safe footwear for running and climbing activities.

### What to bring to the ECC

All children will need to bring the following items and we ask that everything is **clearly labelled**:

- A piece of fruit (please place in the bowl on the kitchen bench)
- Hat (bucket hat, legionnaires or broad-brimmed)
- Drink bottle
- Change of clothes (don't forget socks)
- Nappies (if required)
- Comforters for sleep
- Babies: Bottle, formula, dummies

We ask that children **do not** bring personal items (toys etc). We can not be held responsible for lost or damaged items.

# OurProgram

Nazareth Early Childhood Centre is inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach. Our curriculum embraces the interests of the children and is responsive to their curiosity and thinking.

As a centre built on the foundation of the Catholic Faith our Religious Education revolves around prayer and developing skills to be a kind, grateful and loving person. Educators guide children to experience the presence of Jesus in their lives. Children typically have an innate wonder of God and the world and we work with this to develop a respect for others and the environment.

Educators at the ECC are seen as both facilitators of an education program and co learners with the children. They encourage children to take risks and support them to grow, learn and develop at a rate that suits them.

We base our program on the Belonging, Being and Becoming framework for children from birth to five years.

The frameworks vision is for all children to experience play-based learning that is engaging and builds success for life. The Early Years Framework describes childhood as a time of:

## Belonging

Is about the basis for living a fulfilling life. Children feel they belong because of the relationships they have with their family, community, culture and place.

## Being

Is about living here and now. Childhood is a special time in life and children need time to just, be – a time to play, try new things and have fun.

## Becoming

Is about the learning and development that young children experience. Children start to form their sense of identity from an early age, which shapes the type of adult they will become.

# ParentEngagement

At Nazareth Early Childhood Centre we recognise parents as the first educators and value working in partnership with families. The National Quality System through the Early Years Learning Framework states that children are more likely to be successful learners when we work together with families. We believe family engagement at the ECC is the shared responsibility of the family, school and community.

We aim to provide a variety of opportunities for families to be active participants at the ECC. Due to the nature of the ECC it is necessary to structure family involvement in a variety of ways including throughout the day and after hours. It is our aim that all families will be able to attend some or all of the events offered.

## Raising a complaint with Department for Education

We recognise that sometimes things go wrong and you may feel that your expectations are not being met. If you have an unresolved issue or a complaint, please raise it. It is important to work together, talk, listen and find solutions so we can improve our services to the community. Please follow this link for more information including steps to take if you have a complaint or concern: [www.sa.gov.au/topics/education-and-learning/general-information/feedback-and-complaints/schools-and-preschools](http://www.sa.gov.au/topics/education-and-learning/general-information/feedback-and-complaints/schools-and-preschools)

# Offer&Visits

When you are offered a place at Nazareth Early Childhood Centre, you will be given a start date and asked to confirm your booking by returning the Acceptance of Offer form along with a \$200 refundable bond and all relevant paperwork. If you choose not to take up the offer, you can remain on the waitlist. An ECC staff member will be in contact with you to arrange visits prior to your child/children starting. The number of visits may vary due to individual children's needs.

In the initial weeks of starting at the ECC, it is important that the children's transition is slow and steady as it allows them to understand what is happening in their world and that all will be okay (this is the start of building resilience). If you require further information please talk with the ECC front staff who will answer your questions or point you in the direction of the person who can.

# OurPhilosophy

## At Nazareth Early Childhood Centre we:

- acknowledge children as citizens with rights, from birth
- put children at the centre of all we do
- foster, encourage and nurture all children's individual strengths, abilities and interests
- value children's cultural background and existing knowledge
- recognise the interconnectedness of learning, supporting children's physical, social, emotional, spiritual and cognitive development
- positively interact with all children, promoting strong relationships and secure attachments
- promote the inclusion and participation of all children
- work in partnership with families to achieve the best possible learning outcomes
- welcome all families into our community, valuing and respecting home cultures, their knowledge of their children, and their contributions and role in their child's life
- communicate freely and respectfully with families and colleagues
- promote collaborative and authentic learning by participating in our local community and engaging with the wider world as 'global citizens'
- acknowledge play as the prime vehicle for learning
- respond to children's ideas and play when making curriculum decisions
- provide opportunities for speculating, explaining, engaging in sustained thinking and problem solving to extend children's learning
- equally value both indoor and outdoor learning environments for children's learning
- acknowledge the Kurna people as the traditional owners of the land on which our centre is located, and our Catholic identity within our learning
- value processes not end products in children's play and learning

## Nazareth Early Childhood Centre educators:

- are flexible, catering for individual learning styles
- are intentional, engaging with children in a deliberate, purposeful and thoughtful manner
- participate in professional learning activities and maintain professional standards
- learn alongside children, co-constructing knowledge
- plan, provide and reflect on experiences and environments that link to the five outcomes of the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia
- seek to promote cultural competence by responding positively to cultural differences
- support workplace procedures and policies
- collaborate with colleagues and mentor beginning educators
- are committed to continuous improvement





# Nazareth

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE

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[nazareth.org.au](http://nazareth.org.au) | [facebook.com/nazarethcatholiccommunity](https://facebook.com/nazarethcatholiccommunity)