



The Outdoor Learning Environment

Our tropical location and ideal weather conditions allow us to create an outdoor learning environment that becomes a focal point of our programs. Environmental education and appreciation starts at an early age. We encourage exploration and investigation of plants, vegetable gardens, trees, flowers, water, dirt, sand, mud, animals and insects. Inquisitive children begin to grasp the complexity and beauty of our planet which in turn leads to an appreciation and understanding of sustainable living.

"Remove the sandals from your feet - you are standing on holy ground"

~ Exodus 3:5

Our People

The staff members of our Early Learning and Care facilities are committed to the children and their parents with whom they work. Experienced staff members are responsible for developing programs of best practice in Early Learning & Care and for the overall supervision of program activities and mentoring of new members of staff. All staff members are responsible for establishing and maintaining personal and teaching relationships with the children in their care and with their families.

"The right word spoken at the right time is as beautiful as gold apples in a silver bowl"

~ Proverbs 25:11

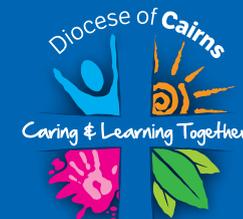
Early Years Spiritual Development

The Early Learning and Care services of the Cairns Diocese provide the setting and activities in which the spiritual development of each child is nurtured through prayer and ritual that is developmentally appropriate. Such a nurturing approach includes the language, concepts and methods to enable young children to respond to and express their spirituality in the Christian tradition.



Children are a gift from the Lord.

~ Psalm 127:3

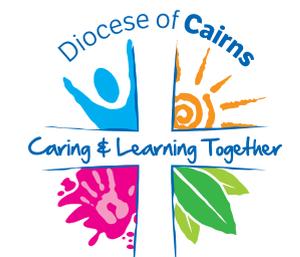


Catholic Early Learning & Care
Childcare - Kindergarten - OSHCare

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Children - raised in families within communities

"I know the plans I have for you... plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." ~ Jeremiah 29:11

Supporting Families

Catholic Early Learning and Care services in the Diocese of Cairns cater for children aged from 6 weeks to 13 years and include Kindergarten, Long Day Care and Outside School Hours Care (Before School, After School and Vacation Care).

It is fundamental that educational and care service provision be authentic, developmentally sensitive, community centred, relevant and responsive.

Our services are founded upon the love of Jesus Christ, the values of the Gospels, the significance of relationships, developmental excellence and quality learning.

Our teachers and caregivers support families in raising their children by:

- Helping parents to balance family activities and workplace responsibilities
- Responding to each child's needs with care that is sensitive and relevant
- Maintaining collaborative relationships with families
- Providing best practice education that is also creative and challenging.

The legal/corporate entity that is the sponsor for all our Catholic Early Learning and Care services is The Roman Catholic Trust Corporation for the Diocese of Cairns (RCTC). Catholic Early Learning and Care (CELC) has the administrative responsibility for those services.

Infants and Toddlers

(6 weeks to 3½ years)

Young children require attentive, sensitive and responsive care from their parents and caregivers so that each child develops a healthy body, an enquiring mind, a resilient personality and a confident spirit.

Our caregivers and teachers support the physical, cognitive, spiritual and emotional development of young children by:

- Valuing the parents' role as primary caregivers of their children
- Providing a nurturing environment for young children
- Encouraging supportive relationships among children, parents and staff
- Promoting feelings of security, trust and self-confidence.



Kindergarten

(3½ to 4½ years)

Children need teachers and caregivers who are attentive, observant and perceptive, and who use their child observation skills and professional knowledge to observe the actions, language, interactions and abilities of the children in their care.

Our Sessional (term time) Kindertagens are for children aged 3½ to 4½ and offer Early Childhood Education for 40 weeks of the year. The Queensland Kindergarten Curriculum is delivered in our Kindertagens by a four year trained qualified teacher.

Our staff members continue the support of children's physical and spiritual development, intellectual growth, self confidence, emotional stability and sensitivity to others by:

- Formulating programs that build upon each child's abilities, interests and needs
- Establishing learning spaces that are dynamic and adapt to the ongoing needs and requests of the children
- Encouraging children to express their creativity, emotions and artistic abilities
- Observing and investigating children's actions and responses attentively
- Recording and exhibiting learning activities to encourage recall and discussion
- Implementing the National Early Years Learning Framework as one guide for teaching practice.

School-aged Children

(4½ to 12 years)

School-aged care programs offer safe and productive activities during the hours outside of the school day. Recreational programs of general supervision and individual attention are provided by our staff for before and after school care programs, and during school vacation periods.

The staff of our Outside School Hours Care (OSHCare) services continue to provide programs to assist all elements of each child's development and provide a setting where children:

- Experience recreational activities within a setting designed specifically for school-aged children
- Socialise with their peers in a relaxed environment, with staff on hand to facilitate social skills and self-confidence
- Engage with staff and peers in quality programs developed collaboratively by the children and staff
- Attend a variety of excursions designed to stimulate, motivate and entertain.

