



**Youth Leadership Victoria  
Outside School Hours Care**

# **Parent Handbook**

# **Welcome to Youth Leadership Victoria**



*YLV - Caring for the next generation of leaders and their communities*

## Contact Information

### For Bookings or change of Bookings

Please call your program educator

KindiNow App

Email: [Admin@ylv.com.au](mailto:Admin@ylv.com.au)

Accounts:

[Admin@ylv.com.au](mailto:Admin@ylv.com.au)

Telephone: (03) 8790 6511

Parent Portal

General Enquires and Feedback

Rita 0412 958 601 or email [rita@ylv.com.au](mailto:rita@ylv.com.au)

Regulatory Authority Dept of Education and Training South Eastern Region

Email [licensedchildrenservices@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:licensedchildrenservices@edumail.vic.gov.au)

Postal Address: PO Box 5 Dandenong Vic 3175

Location: 165-169 Thomas St Dandenong Vic 3175 tel (03) 1300 307 415

## Fees

Please call us with your CCB percentage and number of eligible hours and we can work out your exact fee. If you don't have a CCB percentages please call the Family Assistance Office (FAO) on 13 61 50.

On enrolment we will need your CRN for yourself and your child so we can confirm register attendance and ensure that you are receiving the maximum entitlement.

## Child Care Benefit (CCB) & Child Care Rebate (CCR)

A family subsidy (Child Care Benefit) is available from the Family Assistance Office (FAO). The Family Assistance Office will assess parents' taxable income and a scale will be used to determine the amount of assistance each family will receive. The assistance may be claimed at a reduced Service fee or at the end of the financial year. Every family regardless of their income is entitled to this assistance.

The Child Care Rebate covers 50% of out of pocket expenses up to a maximum amount each year. The Child Care Rebate is not income tested. If you are claiming Child Care Benefit you are eligible for the Child Care Rebate if you meet a "work study test".

For further details please speak to our Nominated Supervisor or contact FAO on 13 6150.

## Allowable Absences

You can be paid for any absence from approved care your child attends for up to **42 days per child per financial year**. Additional absences beyond 42 days for certain reasons may be approved and paid. Please talk to us about the additional absences.

Public holidays will be counted as an absence if the child would normally have attended the service on that week day, and fees have been charged for that day for the child. You can access your child's absence record on your online statement by selecting '**View Child Care Details and Payments**' on your [Centrelink online account](#). You can also do this using the [Express plus Families mobile app](#)

## Regulatory Authorities

Our Service complies with the National Quality Framework (NQF) including the National Quality Standard (NQS), the Early Years Learning Framework (or other Approved Framework) and the National Regulations (Education and Care Services National Regulations).

Our Service is regulated by the new 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 our State/Territory. To contact our Regulatory Authority.

## Service Closing Time and Late Fees

Please check the closing time of the After Care Program. In accordance with National Regulations and licensing, we are not permitted to have children in the service after the closing time. A late fee is incurred for children collected late

The fee is **\$15** per child for every **15** minutes or part thereof 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 program 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, then we will contact Department of Education and Communities and the Police to take responsibility of your child.

## Confidentiality

We are committed to protecting your privacy. We support and are bound by privacy laws and strict confidentiality is maintained at all times.

In order to plan programs with you 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.

## Service Policies and Procedures

You will find a copy of our service policies and procedures on site at OSHC. We expect our staff and families to adhere to our policies and procedures at all times to ensure we maintain compliance and abiding by the National Law and 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 family's needs and meet required regulations. Your involvement helps us to improve our service and may lead us to change our policies and procedures.

## Enrolment Information

Prior to commencing at our service, you will be required to complete all enrolment documentation

Please understand that it is essential we have up-to-date information in case of an emergency. It is important that you notify the nominated or certified supervisor of any changes to enrolment information including:

- Address
- Health
- Telephone/mobile numbers
- Contact details
- Family changes
- Emergency contact information details etc.

It is essential that we have copies of your child's immunization status. We are also required to have certified copies of any court orders relating to the child.

## 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
- 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.

## **Educational Program**

We follow the My Time our Place National Quality Framework as per our programming policy. The aim of this document is to extend and enrich children's learning through their transition to school. We are committed to providing a developmental and educational program which caters for each child's individual needs, abilities and interests. Our program will continue 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 this is supported by Educators who are diligent in their responsiveness to each child. Applying strong intentional teaching practices will provide the children with an authentic and meaningful learning environment which challenges, supports and nurtures a child's development.

If we as Educators have any areas of concern, we will inform you and advise where help may be pursued, e.g. speech therapist. We understand this is a sensitive topic and it is always your decision to follow this up. Educators are willing to discuss any aspect of learning and development with parents.

### **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.

#### **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

## **Portfolios**

Every child will have a personal, confidential portfolio comprising of;

- Child's Profile
- Goals from families and Educators
- Observations
- Objectives for further development
- Work samples
- Checklists

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 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.

## Parent Participation

The Service has an *Open Door Policy* and actively seeks and encourages families to be as 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 & experiences that the children and the program will benefit from.

You can be involved in the Service's Family Committee. Your involvement can be as formal or active as you like as time permits. We respect that time is limited for most families and we ask that you inform us as to your preferred way of communication. We can arrange meetings with your child's Educator at a time that suits you throughout the year and offer email, SMS, Facebook, Newsletters, Day Book Journals and pride ourselves on strong verbal communication on a daily basis. 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 the OSHC room. You are welcome to take a copy home and review at your leisure.

### Family Skills, Interests and Talents

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 (eg music, craft, cooking). Everything parents do interest children and these talks 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.

### Your Home Culture

Your home culture is most welcome in our Service. We would greatly appreciate if you were able to share with our Service aspects of your culture and family life. This would assist us to enrich the lives of all our families and children.

### **Reading (especially good for grandparents)**

Children love to be read to. If you or your parents have the time please contact your Educators to organise a day for reading.

### **Recyclable Items**

We are always on the lookout for recyclable items for the rooms. Empty food containers, ribbons, wrapping 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.

### **Special Events**

Our Service organises special events throughout the year. Keep an eye out as your child is sure to be a star!

### **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

## **Communication**

Everybody has a different communication style and time for communication. We understand that mornings and afternoons can be a little rushed, and not the best time to discuss your child's day.

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

- ✓ Newsletter
- ✓ Phone calls
- ✓ Emails
- ✓ Letters
- ✓ Face to face
- ✓ Formal meetings

## **Court Orders**

Parents must notify the Service if there are any Court Orders affecting residency of their children and a copy is required for the Service.

Without a Court Order we cannot stop a parent collecting a child.

## **Arrival and Departure**

For safety and security reasons ALL children must be signed in on arrival, and signed out on departure. The times must be noted.



No child will be allowed to leave our Service with a person who is not stated on the enrolment form, unless prior arrangements are made with the Nominated Supervisor.

## Preparing your child for school

Orientation is an important start for your child and family to connect to our service. We encourage each child to attend the Service in the company of a family member three (3) times before they start the 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 find things, provide Educators with additional information about your child and how we can best support their transition and settling period.

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

Communication between home and the service must be open and happen often to best support your child during this time

Rest assured that we will ring you if your child is distressed.

## What to bring to Vacation Care Programs

### Backpack

Please ensure it is large enough to hold all their belongings and take home art work and is clearly labelled.

### Morning Tea and Lunch

Morning tea can be sent in either a medium-sized snap-lock bag (which can be reused) or if you prefer a small container, **clearly labelled with their name**. Also include one drink bottle - again with their name on it.

Children are asked to bring their lunch in a plastic lunch box with a lid or an insulated lunch pack. As all lunches containing dairy or meat or high risk food must be placed into the refrigerator. We ask you put your child's name on both bottom (at each end) and the lid.

We try to encourage a healthy lunch at the Service so only provide sandwiches with nutritious fillings. Sprinkles & chocolate spreads are discouraged. Celery and carrot sticks or a salad are good additions to your child's lunch. We prefer that sweet biscuits, cakes, chips lollies, roll ups, are not sent as part of your child's lunch!

**Reference:** Nutrition Australia

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

## **Clothing**

It is helpful to your child if they are dressed in non- restrictive, serviceable, 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 & jump as well as being easy for the child to take off and put on by him/her.

Unsuitable shoes are thongs and gumboots and we prefer that these are NOT worn to the Service. Lace up joggers or sandals are appropriate. Also, please consider clothing that enables the child to move around easily and allows children to be independent in dressing. Hats that are broad brimmed are essential for effective sun safety.

### **Spare clothes**

Every now and then accidents occur and it may be necessary for your child to get changed into a fresh set. Please include a complete change of clothes every day which can stay in your child's bag...just in case!

## **Toys**

The Service has an abundance of toys 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**

Educators follow a Behaviour Management Policy which extends across the whole Service giving consistency of expectation. This policy allows children to develop self-discipline, a respect for others, for property and respect for self, whilst learning to regulate their behaviour. If you require further information on this policy please ask Educators and refer to the policy book.

## **Birthdays**

It is very exciting for a child to be having a birthday. If a cake is required for a child's birthday it is recommended that an ice cream cake or cupcakes are provided as this reduces the major allergy risks associated with most other cakes. Families are required discuss cake options with educators prior to the celebration.

For further information, please see our Celebration Policy.

## **Family Photo**

We have in all rooms a Family Wall. 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

Children and Educators will wear hats and appropriate clothing when outside. Staff will encourage children, including by way of modelling behaviour, to avoid excessive exposure to the sun and to wear suitable sunscreen (at least SPF 15+), which is reapplied according to the manufacturers 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.

### Sun Hat

A sun protective hat must be worn every day when playing outside for protection against the sun. Please make sure to include it in your child's bag every day regardless of the weather conditions.

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

Our service is a busy and demanding day 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 try and prevent the spread of disease, please monitor your child's health and watch for:

- A runny, green nose
- High temperature
- Diarrhoea
- Red, swollen or discharging eyes
- Vomiting
- Rashes
- Irritability, unusually tired or lethargic

Please do not bring your child to the Service if they display any of the above symptoms. If a child becomes ill whilst at the Service the child's parents or person responsible for the child will be contacted to organise collection of the child. If the child is unable to be collected, educators will contact the child's emergency contact for collection.

When the child is collected, the family will have the following information made available to them to present to their doctor: symptoms, date of onset, general behaviour of the child leading up to the illness and any action taken.

Your child should not attend the Service if they have had Panadol or Neurofen within 24 hours for a temperature. It is extremely important that staff members are aware if a child has had either medication so we do not re-administer and potentially overdose.

The other consideration is that medication of any type should not be added to a child's bottle. 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 away due to illness, please check with the Service as to whether or not you will need a certificate before your child returns.

## Infectious Diseases

The following information has been supplied by the National Health and Medical Research Council re: exclusion from the Service of a child suffering with the following diseases/ailments. Please inform

staff if your child has any of the following so that we can let families and Health Department know if something is going around and avoid an epidemic. (Confidentiality is always maintained).

Condition	Exclusion
Hand, foot and mouth disease	Until all blisters have dried.
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.
Influenza 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).
Poliomyelitis	Exclude for at least 14 days from onset. Readmit after receiving medical certificate of recovery.
Rubella (German measles)	Exclude until fully recovered or for at least 4 days after the onset of rash.
Salmonella, Shigella	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.
Whooping Cough	Exclude the child for 5 days after starting antibiotic treatment.
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.

## Immunisation

From 1 January 2016, only parents of children (less than 20 years of age) who are fully immunised or are on a recognised catch-up schedule can receive the Child Care Benefit, the Child Care Rebate and the Family Tax Benefit Part A end of year supplement.

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 Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR).

Children with medical contraindications or natural immunity for certain diseases will continue to be exempt from the requirements.

Conscientious objection and vaccination objection on non-medical grounds will no longer be a valid exemption from immunisation requirements. Families eligible to receive family assistance payments and have children less than 20 years of age, who may not meet the new immunisation requirements, will be notified by Centrelink.

For an up to date immunisation schedule, please refer to your enrolment pack.

## Medication

Educators can only administer medication prescribed by a doctor. They cannot administer non-prescription drugs or dietary supplements unless the service is provided with written authorisation by a doctor.

Medication can only be administered to a child by Educators from its original packaging with pharmacy instruction sticker.

On arrival at the Service families, must give medication to Educators for safe storage and complete a medication authorisation form. Under no circumstances should medication be left in children's bags.

## Allergies or Asthma

It is vital that we are aware of any allergies or asthma. Families are required to explain any allergy or asthma on the enrolment form as well as provide us with the diagnosis from the doctor. The Service has a procedure the staff follow to minimise allergic reactions.

The Service requires an Action Plan filled in by your Doctor to assist in managing your child's needs. The Action Plan is to be updated every 6 months.

## Accidents

The nominated supervisor will contact parents immediately if a child is involved in a serious accident at the Service. As a matter of extreme importance parents must ensure that the Service has up to date emergency contact numbers.

An incident report will be filled out for all accidents, injuries and illnesses. This will contain details of the accident /injury/illness, any first aid that was administered, and be signed an educator, the Nominated Supervisor and by the parent.

## Emergency Drills

Throughout the year the Service will hold emergency drills which occur at any given time throughout the day. These are carried out in a well-organised and orderly manner. Educators will be trained in using the fire extinguishers that are in the Service. An emergency escape plan will be displayed in every room.

## Children's Safety

- Never leave children unattended in cars while collecting children from the Service.
- Cars parks are dangerous places for children. Always hold children's hands when arriving and leaving the Service.
- Never leave a door or gate open.
- Children are not permitted into the kitchen.

## Workplace Health and Safety

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, please contact the Nominated Supervisor immediately.

## Educator Ratio and Qualifications

We meet all legal requirements in relation to child to educator ratios and the qualifications of our educators. All Educators will hold First Aid qualifications, have Working with Children Checks completed and attend monthly Educators' meetings.

Our Educators are continually evaluating how our curriculum meets the education needs of our children and reflecting on ways to improve children's learning and development. They are encouraged to attend further professional training and development.

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

## Parent Acknowledgement

*I/We have read this handbook carefully. I/We understand the commitment that you are undertaking and your responsibilities to the Service.*

*I have completed the enrolment form at the Service. I have read and agree to comply with the requirements set out in this handbook and in the Service's policies.*

<b>Family Name</b>	
<b>Parent Name</b>	
<b>Child/ren's Name</b>	
<b>Parent Signature</b>	

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


***Have you completed the orientation evaluation? Please circle***

***Yes/ No***