

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S CENTRE
ALL DAY CARE • SESSIONAL CARE • KINDERGARTEN

ACCREDITATION — EXTERNAL REVIEW

SURVEY

You have now over the past few months walked through the process of Accreditation and had a detailed view of all the quality indicators as detailed in the Quality Practices Guide (3rd edition, 2005).

The QIAS Quality Practices Guide is a “living” document which is reviewed and updated from time to time as required. The Quality Practices Guide is the prime reference document to be used by long day care centres progressing through QIAS. It details 7 quality areas of the QIAS and the underlying Principles for each Area, by which quality child care is defined. These Quality Areas form the framework for measuring the quality within a long day care centre.

Quality indicators are provided for each standard of practice; *Unsatisfactory*, *Satisfactory*, and *High Quality*. Where appropriate, within these standards indicators are listed in age appropriate groups. However, in many cases descriptions listed under a particular age, while especially pertinent to children of that age, may also be relevant for younger children and/or older children.

The indicators which define quality in the Quality Practices Guide should be seen as indicative, but not an exhaustive list. Centres may also substantiate their quality ratings by reference to practices that fall outside the indicators. While the standard required for accreditation is the same for all child care centres, no two centres will meet these standards in exactly the same way.

RATINGS – WHAT DO THEY MEAN?

- *Unsatisfactory - means that one or more Unsatisfactory indicators are evident in the sections practice*
- *Satisfactory - Means that no unsatisfactory indicators are evident and the Satisfactory indicators best describe the sections' typical practice*
- *Good Quality - Means that no Unsatisfactory indicators are evident and that while most satisfactory indicators are evident and there is also evidence of some High quality indicators, Good Quality best describes the sections typical practice*
- *High Quality -Means that no Unsatisfactory indicators are evident, most satisfactory indicators are evident and the High Quality indicators best describe the sections' typical practice.*

Quality Areas

There are 7 Quality Areas in the QIAS, with underlying Principles of Practice.

1. Staff Relationships with Children and Peers

- 1.1 Staff interact with each child in a warm and friendly way.
- 1.2 Staff guide children's behaviour in a positive way.
- 1.3 Staff initiate and maintain respectful communication with each child.
- 1.4 Staff respect each child's backgrounds and abilities.
- 1.5 Staff treat children equitably.
- 1.6 Staff communicate effectively to promote respect and professional teamwork.

2. Partnerships with families

- 2.1 Staff and families effectively exchange information about each child and the centre.
- 2.2 Staff encourage family participation and involvement in the Centre.
- 2.3 The centre has an orientation process for all new children and their families.

3. Programming and Evaluation

- 3.1 Programs reflect a clear statement of centre philosophy.
- 3.2 Each child's learning is documented and is used in planning the program.
- 3.3 The program assists each child to be a successful learner.

4. Children's Experiences and Learning

- 4.1 Staff encourage children to make choices and participate in play.
- 4.2 Staff promote each child's ability to develop and maintain relationships.
- 4.3 Staff promote each child's language and literacy abilities.
- 4.4 Staff promote each child's problem solving and mathematical abilities.
- 4.5 Staff promote each child's enjoyment of and participation in the expressive arts.
- 4.6 Staff promote each child's physical abilities.

5. Protective Care and Safety

- 5.1 Staff act to protect each child.
- 5.2 Staff supervise children at all times.
- 5.3 Staff ensure that potentially dangerous products, plants and objects are inaccessible to children
- 5.4 The Centre ensures that buildings and equipment are safe.
- 5.5 The Centre promotes occupational health and safety

6. Health, Nutrition and Wellbeing

- 6.1 Staff promote healthy eating habits
- 6.2 Staff implement effective and current food-safety standards and hygiene practices.
- 6.3 Staff encourage children to follow simple rules of hygiene.
- 6.4 Staff ensure toileting and nappy changing procedures are positive experiences.
- 6.5 Staff support each child's needs for rest, sleep and comfort
- 6.6 The centre acts to control the spread of infectious diseases and maintains records of immunisation.

7. Managing to Support Quality

- 7.1 Written information about the centre's management is readily available to families
- 7.2 Written information about the centre's management is readily available to staff
- 7.3 Staffing policies and practices facilitates continuity of care for each child
- 7.4 Management provides professional development opportunities for staff.

It is now time for you to complete the survey (attached) and return to us by Monday 5 October. This will inform our Self Study Report that is required to be sent to NCAC by 27 October.

Thank you for your continued support

Jenny