Parent Handbook

Montessori-Inspired • Child-Led • Nurturing • Family Environment

Welcome to My Community

Thank you for trusting Larysa's Home Daycare with your child's care and early education. My goal is to provide a safe, loving, and enriching environment where every child feels respected, valued, and encouraged to reach their full potential.

My program is rooted in a Montessori-inspired, child-led philosophy. I believe that children possess an innate desire to learn and that they flourish best when given hands-on experiences, meaningful work, and opportunities to cultivate genuine independence.

Each child is honored as an individual. My commitment is to foster your child's social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development within a warm, home-like setting that builds confidence, security, and a lifelong love for learning.

> *"The paramount task is to show the child the path to freedom through work, to independence through activity."*
> *— Dr. Maria Montessori*

Program Philosophy

Children thrive when they feel safe, respected, and capable. My program centers around six core pillars:

- **Building Independence:** cultivating self-reliance, confidence, and internal motivation.
- **Kindness & Empathy:** teaching children to care deeply for themselves, their peers, and their surroundings.
- **Individualized Development:** respecting each child's unique pace, interests, and developmental timeline.
- **Hands-On Learning:** providing tactile, concrete materials that foster authentic understanding.
- **Curiosity & Problem-Solving:** encouraging critical thinking, experimentation, and resilience through challenge.
- **Stewardship of Environment:** guiding children to maintain, respect, and treasure their physical spaces.

My role as an educator and caregiver is to serve as a guide — preparing a thoughtful environment and offering support while allowing children the freedom to explore, discover, and learn independently.

Hours, Tuition & Payment

Hours: Monday – Friday, 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM.

Daily rates: $65/day for ages 1 and older; $75/day for children under age 1.

Payment: Tuition is paid weekly and is due **Monday by 8:00 AM**, before care begins. Accepted payment methods are Zelle or check.

Reserved space: Tuition is based on the reservation of your child's space, not attendance. Tuition remains due in full regardless of absences, including illness, vacations, appointments, or family schedules.

Failure to submit tuition as agreed may result in suspension of care or termination of enrollment. A late fee of **$25.00** applies to payments received after Monday at 8:00 AM; an additional **$10.00 per day** accumulates for each day payment remains unpaid if tuition is not received by Wednesday at 8:00 AM.

Late Pickup

Daycare closes promptly at **5:00 PM**. A late pickup fee of **$1.00 per minute, per child**, applies for every minute past 5:00 PM. Late pickup fees are due at pickup or added to the following week's tuition balance. Chronic tardiness (3 or more late pickups within a month) may result in termination of enrollment. Please plan ahead and arrange a backup pickup person for days when traffic or schedules run tight.

Closures & Time Off

- **Provider vacation:** two (2) unpaid vacation weeks per calendar year, with advance written notice to families.
- **Provider sick days:** five (5) paid sick days per calendar year for provider illness or health/safety circumstances.
- **Paid holidays:** Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

Daily Communication through NestliCare

I use **NestliCare** as my primary communication platform. Throughout the day you will receive updates on what your child eats, diaper changes, nap times, activities, and more, along with general parent/provider messaging. Please check NestliCare regularly so you never miss an update.

What I Provide

Diapers, wipes, Pull-Ups, and all food — including meals and snacks — are provided as part of enrollment. **Families only need to supply infant formula.**

All provided diapers and pull-ups are elemental chlorine-free, and wipes are hypoallergenic and fragrance-free for sensitive skin.

What to Bring

Please label all personal items clearly with your child's full name.

- **Extra clothing:** 2–3 complete seasonal changes (tops, bottoms, socks, underwear). During potty training, please provide 3–4 sets including extra socks and a spare pair of shoes.
- **Outdoor attire:** weather-appropriate outer gear (boots, rain jackets, winter coats, hats, sun hats).
- **Footwear:** sturdy, closed-toe shoes suitable for climbing and active outdoor play.
- **Rest comfort item:** one small blanket or small comfort item for the rest-time cot.

Nutrition & Meals

Providing children with wholesome, nutrient-dense food is a core priority. I serve breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon snack daily, with an additional morning snack for younger children as needed.

Larysa's Home Daycare **participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)**, and my menus follow CACFP nutrition guidelines.

My nutritional commitment:

- Organic ingredients **whenever possible**
- Grass-fed beef and dairy **whenever possible**
- Fresh whole foods
- Locally sourced farm produce

I source fresh, seasonal produce directly from a local farm where my mother works, which lets me build daily menus around fresh, locally grown ingredients.

Baby-led weaning: for infants entering solids, I fully support baby-led weaning upon request. Infants are encouraged to explore safe textures, practice self-feeding, develop oral motor skills, and cultivate healthy relationships with real food.

Please inform the daycare of any documented allergies, sensitivities, or medical dietary restrictions prior to your child's first day.

Rest & Recharge

A calm, predictable rest period is essential for physical recovery, emotional regulation, and brain development in young children.

- Each child is provided with their own designated, sanitized cot.
- All children are expected to lie quietly on their cot during the designated rest period, regardless of whether they fall asleep.
- Children who wake early or do not sleep may quietly look through books or engage in approved soft activities while remaining on their cots to respect sleeping peers.

Program fit note: if a child is consistently unable to maintain rest-time expectations despite consistent guidance, environmental adjustments, and provider support, it may indicate that my mixed-age home environment is no longer optimal for their developmental stage. In that case I will schedule a conference with you to discuss next steps, which may include a transition plan. Per the enrollment agreement, either party may end enrollment with two weeks' written notice.

Toilet Independence (Potty Training)

I view toileting as an important practical life skill and a natural step toward autonomy, and I am happy to partner with your family once your child shows consistent physical and emotional signs of readiness. Because consistency between home and daycare is essential, I ask that families begin the toilet learning process at home over a weekend or vacation before I transition at daycare.

- **The “two accident” policy:** if a child has two toileting accidents in a single day, they will be gently transitioned into a daycare-provided Pull-Up for the remainder of the day. I will happily try again fresh in underwear the next morning!
- **Clothing for independence:** please dress your child in clothing they can manage on their own — elastic waistbands and loose-fitting pants are best. Please avoid overalls, belts, bodysuits/onesies, tights, or tricky snaps and buttons.
- **What families provide:** because diapers, wipes, and Pull-Ups are fully provided, families only need to supply 3 to 4 complete changes of clothes (including extra socks and a spare pair of shoes) during the active learning phase.

Physical Movement & Screen Policy

My environment is dedicated to active engagement, physical play, hands-on learning, and direct human connection. I maintain a screen-free environment during daycare hours.

On rainy days, the one exception is an occasional child-friendly guided workout on the Peloton.

Positive Guidance

I view child behavior as a form of communication. My guidance focuses on teaching self-regulation, empathy, and constructive problem-solving rather than applying punitive measures.

- **Redirection:** guiding energy toward productive, safe activities.
- **Respectful modeling:** demonstrating clear language, gentle hands, and emotional regulation.
- **Logical consequences:** helping children understand the direct result of their choices in a natural way.
- **Emotional coaching:** validating feelings while holding firm boundaries around safety and respect.

Physical punishment, emotional shaming, verbal degradation, or isolation are strictly prohibited.

Health, Illness & Attendance

To protect the health of my home environment, please keep your child home when they exhibit:

- Fever (100.0°F or higher in the past 24 hours)
- Vomiting or diarrhea in the past 24 hours
- Contagious rash or eye infection
- Inability to comfortably participate in daily activities

Children must be symptom-free for at least **24 hours** (without the use of fever-reducing medication) before returning to daycare after a fever, vomiting, or diarrhea. Please notify the daycare as soon as possible if your child has a contagious illness.

Emergency Procedures

Your child’s safety is my highest priority. I practice fire drills and evacuation procedures regularly so children know what to do calmly and quickly.

In the event of a medical emergency, Larysa Eisener is authorized to obtain emergency medical treatment for your child if you cannot be reached immediately. Every reasonable effort will be made to contact you and your emergency contacts as soon as possible.

Authorized pickup: only the individuals you list as authorized pickup persons may collect your child. Photo ID may be required at pickup. Any changes to authorized pickup persons must be submitted in writing.

Medication & Sunscreen

Emergency medications (such as EpiPens or inhalers) must be provided by the parent, clearly labeled, and accompanied by signed written instructions.

Please provide a labeled sunscreen for your child along with signed written permission for application before outdoor play.

Withdrawal & Termination

Either party may end enrollment at any time with a minimum of **two (2) weeks' advance written notice**. Tuition remains due during the entire notice period regardless of attendance.

The daycare reserves the right to terminate enrollment immediately, without prior notice, if the safety, health, or well-being of any child is compromised, or in cases of severe non-compliance or non-payment.

Parent Partnership & Acknowledgment

A successful early childhood experience relies on open communication, mutual respect, and consistency between home and daycare. I welcome your questions, daily check-ins, and collaborative discussions regarding your child's progress.

PARENT HANDBOOK RECEIPT & AGREEMENT

Please sign and return this page prior to your child's first day of attendance.

I acknowledge that I have received, read, and fully understand the policies, expectations, and philosophies outlined in the Larysa's Home Daycare Parent Handbook. I agree to comply with all guidelines regarding program philosophy, hours and tuition, nutrition, rest expectations, potty training, illness exclusions, late pickup, and enrollment requirements.

PARENT / GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

DATE

PARENT / GUARDIAN PRINTED NAME

CHILD'S FULL NAME