

Parent Handbook

LOS **Niños**  
del **Valle**



Preschool and  
Child Care Center

**A Program of Casa Community Services**

- \* *Licensed*
- \* *Qualified Staff*
- \* *Open year-round*
- \* *Accredited by the National Association  
for the Education of Young Children*

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# Welcome

## Students and Parents

Dear Parent:

We welcome your child and family to Los Niños del Valle Preschool and Child Care. We are proud of our program and staff. We look forward to our time with your child and with you.

### In our program we will:

- Provide nurturing and attention to your child's growth by creating a positive atmosphere.
- Respond to your child's interests and developmental needs in planning our program.
- Highly value individual differences, your child's special qualities and talents.
- Encourage a love for learning by presenting activities that are appropriate, interesting and fun.
- Focus on your child as a whole being, taking into account your child's social, physical, intellectual and emotional development.
- Help your child experience positive self esteem, a sense of worthiness and responsibility.
- Welcome and respond to parent input.
- Communicate daily about your child.

### We want your child to think and feel:

- I am important. I like who I am.
- I can learn. I enjoy learning.
- I can contribute. I am confident.

We are fortunate to have a conscientious teaching and care-giving staff. All staff members have first aid and CPR training and have been finger printed for screening prior to being hired.

The curriculum and daily schedule are carefully planned and your children benefit from the staff's continuing education, training and experience.

Please become familiar with this parent handbook. It holds the answers to most of your questions regarding this program. We hope you will find your preschool/child care experience fulfilling for both you and your child, and we ask for your participation and cooperation. We are looking forward to a successful and productive year and feel sure that LNDV will benefit from your membership.

Sincerely,  
The Staff of Los Niños del Valle



# Program Information

## Philosophy of Care

LNDV's program is designed to foster self-esteem, self-confidence, competence in self-help skills and those inner controls and language abilities necessary for effective social interaction. We stress the process of learning and discovery rather than the product. We encourage children to feel good about themselves as a consequence of their own achievements.

Our goal is to support children in their active explorations and to help them become self-confident, independent, and inquisitive learners. When children investigate or observe their environment, when they ask questions, when they experiment and talk about their findings, when they record them through drawings, recreate them with blocks, or interpret them through dramatic play, they are learning to understand the world.

To help children develop into self-confident, caring, competent individuals, our program is play oriented. We believe "play is a child's work" and that through play children acquire the foundations for reading, writing, and logical thinking. Learning through play is the preparation children need before they can understand how to use abstract symbols such as letters and numbers.



Before children can understand the concept of "soft and hard" they need to experience "soft" and "hard" by working with play dough or building with blocks. Before they can hold a pencil or control it to make a letter on paper, they need to have developed their small muscle skills through cutting, pasting, pouring, stringing beads, kneading dough, and drawing. Likewise, to understand why  $1+3=4$ , a child needs to first have concrete experiences of counting objects, sorting them into piles, adding some and removing some. In this way they acquire the foundation for logical thinking to later do math.

## Program Goals

LNDV's curriculum is designed to address specific needs of each age and stage in a child's development. The goals of our curriculum are to help children develop a positive sense of self, be active and creative explorers, and in the process become enthusiastic learners.

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Our program addresses goals in all areas of development:

**Socio-Emotional:** To help children feel comfortable at the center, to nurture their sense of trust, autonomy, and belonging. To give them daily opportunities to experience pride and self-confidence, to develop independence and self-control, and a positive outlook to life.

**Cognitive:** To foster children's ability to ask questions, describe their ideas, observations and feelings. To help children acquire problem solving skills and develop a love of learning by providing play experiences through which they can explore and investigate, construct and create, pretend and recreate, discover and document.

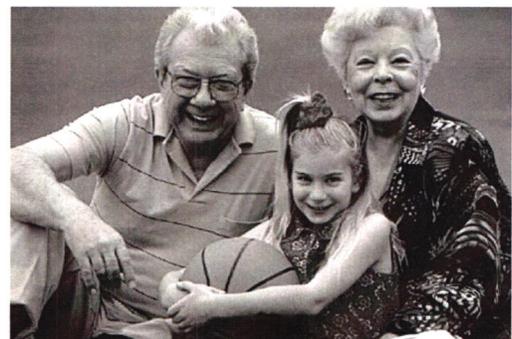
**Physical:** To help children develop their large and small muscle skills and to feel confident using them.

Each classroom environment is carefully organized, with a selection of multicultural learning aids, books, and materials, accessible to children. Each week, caregivers plan a daily schedule of activities around a theme and with a focus on specific skills to meet the developmental needs of the children in the classroom. Preschool classrooms are organized into distinct interest areas, such as blocks, dramatic play, art, sand and water, table toys, music and movement, and books.

### **Intergenerational Programming**

A unique component of the LNDV curriculum is the intergenerational programming. Participants from La Posada Community Services Adult Day Health Center, Community Center, La Posada facilities, and many elder community volunteers participate in planned, supervised, integrated activities with the children. This intergenerational component will increase the child's understanding of life as an ongoing process in which aging is a natural element. Friendships are formed, mutual respect is given, and unconditional love encompasses all activities.

Children are prepared by caregivers who have been trained in using the preschool curriculum on aging, "Share It With the Children." Through learning about natural grandparents and other older persons who are close to the child, the sense of continuity in life can be explored. A child can begin to think about his/her own aging as a natural and inevitable part of living. The child will be able to work cooperatively with older adults in arts and crafts, music, exercise, storytelling, and numerous other special activities.



## Policies and Procedures

### Parent Visitation

LNDV has an open door policy for parents. We welcome and encourage your visit at any time. You have unlimited access to the center during business hours for the purpose of contacting your child and evaluating the care provided. Please sign in on the Visitors clip board upon arrival and sign out when you leave. You may also be encouraged to call your child to reassure yourself or your child on days when unexpected situations may arise. Our goal is to work with you to provide a positive learning experience for your child.

### Enrollment

La Posada Community Services - LNDV admits children of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, and activities generally accorded or made available to children at the center. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, administration policies, scholarship programs, and other administered programs.

- Services are offered for children with special needs, provided the parent, lead teacher, assistant director and director meet and agree on the Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
- LNDV reserves the right to refuse enrollment for any child or to ask parents to make alternative arrangements for the care of the child enrolled in our program.
- We ask that you familiarize yourself with the LNDV Parent Handbook which lists policies and procedures and that you complete and sign all enrollment forms. The registration fee, insurance fee (when applicable), and the \$150.00 security deposit are due as indicated on the enrollment form.
- We request a tour with the parent and child to acquaint the new family with the center environment, child's caregivers and schedule for care.

The following forms should be completed and submitted to the Director *prior to enrollment*:

Application for Enrollment	Child Information Form
Child Information Card (Blue)	Permission Forms
Copy Child Birth Certificate	Enrollment Agreement
Copy Child Immunization Record	Medical Consent Form

#### *If Applicable:*

Child Medication Authorization Form

### Disenrollment

A child will be placed on disenrollment status **ONLY** if a two-week advance written notice is given to the Director. If no notice is received, the full tuition will be charged to cover the two week period.

- Los Niños del Valle reserves the right to disenroll any child, at any time, when we believe disenrollment is in the best interest of the child and/ or Los Niños.
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### Sign In/Sign Out

For your peace of mind and the safety of your child, children must be signed in and out by parents, or a person you have specifically authorized, whose name is listed on the Blue Card. No child will be released to anyone without your written authorization. If custody is an issue, we ask that a copy of the custody order be on file at the center. We will ask for a picture identification from any person picking up your child.

- You will be signing your child in and out using the Maggey computer system. Each person authorized by you to drop your child off or pick your child up will be assigned a confidential code to access your account. To Clock In/Out:
  1. Press 1 to Clock In or Press 2 to Clock Out.
  2. Enter your 5 digit PIN.
  3. Place your finger on the sensor.
  4. Press OK.

(If there is more than one child in the family and one of those children is absent, press on the absent child's name, then OK.)

- Please escort your child to the room and notify the care giver of your arrival. No child may be left at the enter without completing the sign in process.
- Please do not leave your child (including younger or older siblings) unattended or unsupervised for any reason.
- When you pick your child up at the end of the day, please check your child's cubby for daily work, important notes, soiled clothing, and other important messages such as the monthly newsletter or other information sheets. Please walk with your child, open the door, and hold his/her hand when leaving the school grounds. This practice makes for a safe arrival and departure.



### Closing Policy

We ask that you make every effort to pick up your child before center closing. Just as you do, our staff have families and responsibilities after center closing time. Our staff may not take your child home with them or make other babysitting arrangements. If an emergency prevents you from picking your child up on time, please call to let us know. It helps us and is reassuring to your child to know what is happening.

If a child is left at the center after closing, staff will take the following measures:

1. Try to contact you by phone.
2. Try to call your emergency contacts.
3. If unsuccessful with steps #1 & #2, the Director will contact the appropriate community authorities.

There are late charges for children picked up after dismissal time (Preschool 12:30 PM and Full Day 6:00 PM). A \$5.00 late fee will be charged for the first fifteen minutes and \$1.00 per minute after that.

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### **Excused Absence Policy**

Tuition is not pro-rated for absences due to illness, vacation or other reasons. Each child will be allowed six (6) personal days from fall enrollment to the following enrollment. These may be used for absences due to illness, vacation, or personal reasons. For those children who register after January 1, they will be allowed three (3) personal days during the rest of the semester. Please notify us in writing on the Personal Absence Day Notification Form when you wish to use one or more of your allowed days.

### **Tuition Policy**

**Weekly tuition payments are due in advance and payable on the first scheduled day of each week.**

- Effective August 10, 2015, a \$150.00 deposit is required on enrollment to the preschool and toddler programs.
- No child may attend Los Niños if the account becomes 1 week overdue.
- Any child excused from Los Niños due to an overdue account, will be placed on the enrollment waiting list and may not be reenrolled until the account is paid in full.
- A fee of \$12.00 will be assessed for any check returned for insufficient funds. Following a returned check, all future payments to Los Niños del Valle Preschool and Child Care Center must be made via cash, credit card or money order.
- We accept Visa and Master Card credit and debit cards.

Los Niños del Valle Preschool reserves the right to enforce this policy, restricting access to the facility until all overdue accounts are reconciled.

### **Tuition Refund Policy**

In the event that a child is removed from the program prior to the usage of prepaid tuition, beyond the two week written notice period, a refund will be made to cover the time the child was not in attendance.

### **Licensing/Insurance Information**

LNDV is licensed through the Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Child Care Licensing located at 400 W. Congress, Suite 100, Tucson, Arizona 85701, 520-628-6540. Inspection reports are available upon request and are located in the Director's office. We carry liability insurance as required by the licensing department.

### **Confidentiality**

LNDV recognizes the right of each family to privacy and confidentiality regarding all health, behavioral and developmental records and information concerning their child. These rights to privacy and confidentiality are protected by various federal and state statutes, local ordinances and regulatory rules.

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## Health and Hygiene Guidelines

### Good Hygiene Practices

LNDV's health and hygiene guidelines comply with the nationally recommended standards of the US Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control, American Public Health Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. The guidelines were developed with the goal of implementing hand washing and sanitization procedures into the daily routines of children and staff to control the spread of infection.

Children need to develop good health habits. We practice hand washing after toileting, before and after meals and snacks, after coming in from outside, and other times during the day as needed. Because young children learn by imitating adults, we ask you to support your children's hand washing efforts by role modeling hand washing practices whenever you are with your child. Upon entering the classroom, please assist your child in washing their hands. Children are encouraged to cough or sneeze into their shoulder or elbow, away from others who may be near them, and to use tissues.

### Soiled Clothing

The Centers for Disease Control of the US Public Health Service require that clothing soiled with bodily fluids (stool, urine, blood, vomit) be placed, un-rinsed, in a sealed plastic bag, labeled with the child's name, to be picked up by the parent or guardian at the end of the day. We follow these recommended precautionary guidelines for the safety of the children and staff.



### Diapering

Diapering is offered in the Terrific Two's program only. Parents are asked to supply diapers and sanitary wipes.

### Toilet Training

Toilet training is offered in the Terrific Two's program when appropriate for each child's age and stage of development. Parents will be consulted on the methods used at home. Feedback will be provided on each child's progress at the center.

We ask that children attending the preschool program exhibit self-help toileting skills. Bathroom times are offered before breakfast, lunch, rest time, and snack. The child may request to use the bathroom at any time during the day.

### Allergies

If your child has allergies, please discuss with the Director or Assistant Director and we will make every effort to accommodate your child's special needs.

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### **Smoke-Free Environment**

LNDV maintains a smoke-free environment. We ask that you do not smoke in the center or in view of the children as you drop off or pick up your child.

### **Screening and Referral Plan**

The screening process is the preliminary step used to determine if sensory, behavioral, and developmental skills are progressing as expected, or if there are causes for concern or a perceived need for further evaluation. The screening itself does not determine a diagnosis or need for early intervention. However, it may suggest the need for an in-depth evaluation that can make those determinations.

Screenings are scheduled twice per year to ensure that children with special needs are identified early.

#### **October –**

Vision screening, Dental screening, Hearing screening

#### **April –**

Vision screening, Dental screening, Hearing screening

Children are routinely observed for sensory, behavioral and development skills as part of an on-going assessment process.

### **Sensory, behavioral and developmental concerns are addressed through:**

- Scheduled meeting with parents
- Referral to AZ Early Intervention Program
- Referral to Easter Seals Blake Foundation or “Child Find”
- Technical assistance through child specialists from Child & Family Resources and Easter Seals Blake Foundation
- Scheduled follow-up meetings with parents to assess progress or modify prescribed plan.

## Illness and Accidents

In consideration of the health and safety of all children, please follow LNDV's health policies for immunization, reporting of communicable diseases, and prevention and management of illness.

### Immunization of Children

LNDV requires that all children are immunized according to the Arizona Department of Health Services schedule (see table on Page 8) to protect against polio, measles, mumps, rubella (German Measles), whooping cough (Pertussis), diphtheria, tetanus, Varicella, Haemophilus (Hib) infections, and Hepatitis B (Hep B). If your child's immunizations are not completed following the recommended schedule, LNDV may exclude your child for the protection of the other children until such immunizations are current.

Check the **Immunization Schedule** table on the next page and contact your health provider to ensure your child is up to date on immunizations.

### Management of Illness/Accident

1. LNDV's policy for the care of sick children is based on ensuring that facilities and staff available can meet the needs of all children in the group. Children will be excluded if:
  - The Child's illness prevents him/her from participating in routine activities.
  - The illness requires more care than the staff is able to provide without compromising the needs of other children in the group.
  - Keeping the child in care poses an increased risk to the child or other children or adults with whom the child comes into contact.
2. Do not bring your child to the center if he/she is not well enough to participate in a normal day's activities or develops symptoms of a contagious disease or is diagnosed by a physician as having a contagious disease.
3. Apply the **Guidelines for the Management of Illnesses** (page 8) in determining when your child should not attend the center.
4. Should your child become sick during the day, you will be called as soon as possible. Parents are required to promptly pick up their child from the center. In case of illness or injury to a child where parents are not available, a person on the emergency (Blue) card will be notified.



### Medication

It is extremely helpful when you can give medication before or after center hours. There may be times, however, when your child needs medication during the day. LNDV staff will give medication prescribed by your child's health care provider if you have completed an Authorization for Medication form.

- **Medication may be given by designated staff only.** Please give all medication to the designated person-in-charge, who will see that it is stored and administered properly and safely. Please do not send medication in your child's bag or coat pocket, or leave medication in your child's cubby. This includes over-the-counter medications such as lip balm.
- **For prescribed medications,** give the designated person-in-charge a completed Authorization for Medication form, the medication in the original, child resistant container, labeled by a pharmacist with your child's first and last names, date prescription was filled, the name of the health care provider who wrote the prescription, the medication's name and expiration date, the manufacturer's instructions or prescription label with specific, legible instructions for administration, storage and disposal instructions, and the name and strength of the medication.
- **For over-the-counter medications,** provide the designated person-in-charge with a completed Authorization for Medication form which includes specific instructions given by the child's health professional and indicating the dose, frequency, method of use, and administration duration. The medication must be in the original child-resistant container which is labeled for children's or pediatric use and include the child's first and last names, instructions for administration and storage supplied by the manufacturer, and the expiration date.
- Medication will be returned to the parent at the end of each day unless the course of medication is complete and then the container will be disposed of properly by designated staff.
- Any medication which has reached the expiration date will not be administered but will be disposed of properly by designated staff.
- Authorization for Medication forms must be updated every six months.
- LNDV logs each instance of medication administration, as well as any adverse reactions, spills or refusals to take.



### Use of Pesticides

LNDV is a certified Eco-Healthy center. We practice Integrated Pest Management. However, if a serious threat remains and pesticide application is the only viable option, parents are notified 48 hours in advance and a licensed professional applies the least toxic, effective product at a time when children will not be exposed for at least 12 hours. Information about products used is located in the Director's office.

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### Toys

Except for toys that are to be used during rest time, we ask that toys be left at home. We ask that your child bring **one small soft sleep toy** which is to be placed in the cubbies designated for this use. Any item brought from home such as the sleep toy, should be clearly labeled with your child's name. Guns and war toys are not considered appropriate tools for learning and may not be brought to the center.

Please understand we cannot be responsible for lost toys and unlabeled articles.

### Field Trips

Field trips to intergenerational activities may be scheduled occasionally. When taking a field trip, the safety of your child is our primary concern. Children on a field trip are required to adhere to safety control standards. Health records and emergency transportation authorization will be available, and appropriate staff/child ratios will be enforced. You will be asked to sign a field trip permission form.

### Nutrition

The LNDV nutritional program is guided by three goals, to:

1. Meet the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) nutritional standards.
2. Help children develop lifelong healthy eating habits.
3. Assist staff in making mealtime a warm and relaxing, learning and sharing experience.

Children need healthy foods to provide energy for their busy day and necessary nutrients for growing bodies. We routinely review lunch menus to make sure they are receiving the healthy foods they need. LNDV is a nut-free facility in consideration of possible allergies.



Meals are served family style, with children assisting in the setting, serving, and clean up. We provide morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack for all children with items selected from the four food groups (grains, proteins, dairy, fruits and vegetables). Full day children receive an afternoon snack. Menus are posted for review. All substitutions are of the same food group and posted.

### Food Allergies

All children will be served required servings of milk daily. If a child requires a milk substitute, we must have on file written instructions from your child's health care provider or request from the parent stating the reason and listing the required substitute. The center will then provide the substitute drink. If additional food or drink is needed during the day, the parent is required to provide the staff with the additional items and written instructions for serving.

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**Guidelines for the Management of Illness**

Please keep your child at home if he/she develops any of these symptoms of contagious disease until symptoms disappear or your physician decides your child may return to the center:

<b>Child Exclusions / Dismissal</b>
Fever, accompanied by behavior changes or other signs or symptoms of illness until medical professional evaluation finds the child able to be included at the facility. Temperature: oral (101°), rectal (102°), axillary (100°)
Signs and symptoms of severe illness (i.e., unusual lethargy, uncontrolled coughing, difficult breathing, wheezing or other unusual signs for the child) until medical professional evaluation finds the child able to be included at the facility.
Uncontrolled Diarrhea, defined by more watery stools, decreased form of stool that is not associated with changes of diet, and increased frequency of passing stool, that is not contained by the child's ability to use the toilet. Children with diarrheal illness of infectious origin generally may be allowed to return to child care once the diarrhea resolves, except for children with diarrhea caused by Salmonella typhi, Shigella or E. Coli 0157:H7.
Blood in stools not explainable by dietary change, medication, or hard stools.
Vomiting (two or more episodes in the previous 24 hours) until vomiting resolves or until a health care provider determines that the cause of the vomiting is not contagious and the child is not in danger of dehydration.
Persistent abdominal pain (continues more than 2 hours) or intermittent pain associated with fever or other signs or symptoms.
Varicella-Zoster (Chicken pox), until all sores have dried and crusted (usually 6 days after onset of rash)
Measles (until 4 days after onset of rash)
Rubella (until 6 days after onset of rash)
Mumps (until 9 days after onset of parotid gland swelling)
Pertussis (until 5 days of appropriate antibiotic treatment, currently erythromycin, which is given for 14 consecutive days)
Mouth sores with drooling, unless a health care provider or health department official determines that the child is noninfectious.
Rash with fever or behavior change until a physician determines that these symptoms do not indicate a communicable disease.
Purulent conjunctivitis (defined as pink or red conjunctiva with white or yellow eye discharge), until after treatment has been initiated. In epidemics of nonpurulent pink eye, exclusion shall be required only if the health authority recommends it.
Pediculosis (head lice), from the end of the day of discovery until after the first treatment.
Scabies, until after treatment has been completed.
Tuberculosis, until a health care provider or health official states that the child is on appropriate therapy and can attend child care.
Impetigo (until 24 hours after initial treatment)
Strep Throat or other streptococcal infection, (until 24 hours after initial antibiotic treatment and cessation of fever.)
Haptitis A Virus, until 1 week after onset of illness, jaundice, or as directed by the health department when passive immunoprophylaxis (currently, immune serum globulin) has been administered to appropriate children and staff members.
Shingles (Herpes Zoster).
Herpes simplex

- In the event of a serious illness or injury, at the discretion of the Director or her designee, paramedics will be called and your child will be transported to an emergency medical facility.

**Required Reporting**

For the protection of all children and staff, please notify the center within 24 hours after your child has developed a known or suspected communicable disease, or if any member of the child’s immediate household has a communicable disease. When your child has a disease requiring exclusion please inform the Center Director of the diagnosis.

NUMBER OF IMMUNIZATIONS REQUIRED TO ENTER CHILDCARE OR SCHOOL, BY AGE OF CHILD									
Vaccine	Childcare/Preschool/Pre-K/Head Start						Kindergarten through 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade		
	<2 months	2-3 months	4-5 months	6-11 months	12-14 months	15 mo-5 yrs	5-6 years	7+ years	
DTaP/DTP/DT/Td		1	2	3	3	4	5 Not required if DTaP#4 was given at 4+ years	3-5 At least 1 dose needs to be given at 4+ years	
Td or Tdap Booster								1 dose required 10 years after last DTaP/Td	
Polio		1	2	2	3	3	4 Not required if Polio #3 was given at 4+ years	4	
MMR					1	1	2	2	
					MMR must be given on/after the 1 <sup>st</sup> birthday to meet requirement				
Hib		1	2	2-3	3	3-4 Or 1 dose at 15+ mo.	Hib is <u>not</u> required for children 5+ years of age		
Hepatitis B	1	1	2	2	3	3	3	3	
					A 4 <sup>th</sup> dose of Hep B is required if Hep B #3 was given before 24 weeks of age				
Varicella					1	1	1	1-2 A 2 <sup>nd</sup> dose is required if dose #1 was given at 13+ yrs of age	
					Beginning with the 2005-2006 school year, children in childcare, Head Start, preschool, Kindergarten, 1 <sup>st</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> grades must be immunized against Varicella unless they have had chicken pox disease. See Implementation Schedule on back to learn when the requirement will be added to other grades.				
Hepatitis A	In <u>Maricopa County Only</u> 2 doses, spaced 6 months apart, are required for children <u>24-71 months</u> of age in child care settings						Hepatitis A is <u>not</u> required for school attendance		

If your child is missing some doses, please contact your doctor or clinic now. If your child is current on immunizations now but will need an additional dose later in the year, the child will be allowed to attend child care or school, provided you get the remaining dose(s) on time.

Your child may be exempted by your child’s doctor because of a medical condition or by you because of your religious beliefs (child care) or personal beliefs (school). Ask your school or child care provider for details.

Arizona Immunization Program Office • 150 North 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 120 • Phoenix, AZ 85007 • (602) 364-3630

If we are notified of a communicable disease affecting children in the center, a health alert will be posted. We will try to indicate the earliest symptoms so that additional exposures can be avoided.

During the course of an identified outbreak of any communicable illness at the facility, a child shall be excluded if the health care provider determines that the child is contributing to the transmission of the illness at the facility. The child shall be readmitted when the health department official or health care provider who made the initial determination decides that the risk of transmission is no longer present.

# Clothing Issues

## What to Wear?

Please dress your child comfortably so that he/she can take advantage of all learning opportunities, indoors and outdoors. Your child should wear clothing that is easily washable and adaptable to food spills, paint, water, and digging. Please provide sweaters and jackets. It is much easier to remove an item not needed than to wish you had something to put on.

Since children play on climbing equipment, we ask that no open sandals, dress shoes or boots be worn. Sturdy tennis shoes are best. Socks with shoes help the comfort of the child.

Jewelry such as necklaces, wrist watches, or rings pose a hazard if it were to get caught on playground equipment. If your child wears jewelry to school, the staff will place it in an envelope marked with your child's name and place it in the office. It may be picked up when you pick up your child.



**Please be sure all clothing and supplies are labeled with your child's name.**

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has recommended that hood and neck drawstrings be removed from children's clothing. These are a hazard if they get caught on an object. If your child wears a jacket, coat or sweatshirt with hood or neck drawstrings, please remove the drawstrings or sew a seam through the drawstring at the middle of the hood or neck so the end cannot pull out or get caught.

## What to Bring?

We ask that you provide a complete seasonally appropriate change of clothing (including socks) clearly marked with your child's name. There is a designated area to store your child's extra set of clothing. Please replace any soiled clothing that is sent home **with a fresh set the next day.**

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# Safety

## Issues



### **Suspected Child Abuse**

LNDV employees and staff are required by state licensing regulations to report any and all suspected child abuse or neglect.

### **Emergency Evacuation**

Evacuation drills are held monthly at LNDV. If an emergency occurs which requires evacuation of the center, you will be notified as soon as possible, and you will be asked to pick up your child if the emergency is expected to last a significant amount of time. If you are at the center during a drill or an emergency, please follow our procedures and evacuate the building immediately along with the children.

### **In Case of Injury**

If your child is injured at the center, you will be called immediately if it is an emergency situation, or an Incident Notice will be placed in your child's cubby describing how the incident happened, where and which caregiver observed the incident in case you have questions or need additional information. You may wish to consult with your family physician to determine whether the nature of the injury requires medical attention, vaccination (against Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Tetanus, or other infectious disease) or other care.

### **Entry Door Access Control System**

Your family will be assigned a security code to access the center upon completion of your registration. This code is highly confidential and is intended for the safety of your child while attending the program. Please do not share this code with anyone or you will be at risk of losing this privilege. If you are not able to bring your child in the morning or pick up your child in the evening, the person you have designated to do so may push the buzzer next to the front door and they will be admitted by LNDV staff.

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**Summer Program**

LNDV offers a PreK summer program which features weekly themes based on interests of the younger and older children and offers hands-on activities in arts and crafts, music and movement, science and cooking, gardening, communication, and fitness.

LNDV offers an 8-week Summer Learning Academy for children kindergarten through third grade (5 to 8). The curriculum includes planned enrichment studies using computer research, arts and crafts, gross motor activities, cooking, guest speakers, and intergenerational activities.

**Group Placement and Transitions**

Children are placed in same age groupings throughout the day to provide individualized instruction in developmentally appropriate ways. In addition, children, families, and caregivers have the opportunity to develop close bonds to facilitate communication and the best first learning experience possible. LNDV offers mixed age groupings during special activities such as intergenerational programming, field trips, and music.

**Behavioral Management**

At LNDV, we seek to build a child's self-esteem by helping him/her develop self-control and responsibility for his/her actions. We never use physical punishment or belittle a child in any way. Expected behavior is based on the child's developmental level. To minimize the need for disciplinary action, a few simple, understandable rules are developed. These rules set the limits of behavior for the safety and protection of the children. Adults are firm, supportive and consistent in their approach. Our goal is to help each child achieve self-control. We ask that you support us in role modeling behavior with all the children at the center. Please do not use developmentally inappropriate language or discipline measures at the center.

**Outdoor Play**

Outdoor play in the fresh air contributes to a child's good health and overall development. LNDV considers outdoor play to be an extension of the classroom and activities are planned to meet developmental goals and to provide opportunities to develop large and small muscle control. It is generally our policy that a child who comes to the center must be well enough to participate in both indoor and outdoor play. If there are medical reasons that your child cannot play outdoors, but is well enough to be at the center, we will be happy to comply with your physician's request when presented with his written instructions. Children remain inside when weather is inclement, or in extreme hot or cold. When playing outdoors, your child's clothes may get dirty, sandy, or get grass stains, please send your child suitable for these activities.

**Rest time**

Children active in the LNDV program need some portion of the day to rest and relax. If your child will be attending in the afternoon, he/she will be provided a freshly sanitized cot, sheet and blanket each week. All sheets and blankets are laundered on the La Posada Campus with no charge to the families. All children are given the opportunity to sleep if they require the rest; quiet activities are provided for older children not requiring a nap.

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## **Emergency Plan**

In the event of an emergency situation, Los Niños del Valle Preschool and Child Care Center, has outlined the below response plan. Please know that Los Niños del Valle Preschool and Child Care Center will make every attempt to notify you so it is vital that you keep your emergency contact information up-to-date.

In the event of a building safety issue, such as a fire, the teachers will take the children and exit following the escape route or alternate route as indicated on the building map. They will proceed to the northern part of the playground where monthly emergency drills are held.

## **Evacuation/Relocation**

1. If the emergency is confined to the immediate area at the Los Niños del Valle Preschool and child Care Center, e.g. fire, and the children cannot stay on the premises, they will walk to the Pavilion on the La Posada campus. The children and staff will remain at this location while you or your emergency contact is notified of the situation.
2. If the emergency is more wide spread and encompasses a larger area such as the neighborhood due to an environmental threat, e.g. flood, and the children cannot remain in the immediate area, they will be transported to Continental Elementary School at 1991 E. Continental Rd Green Valley. The children and staff will remain at this location while you or your emergency contact is notified of the situation.
3. The Community Performance and Art Center (CPAC) at 1250 W. Continental Rd Green Valley is the 2<sup>nd</sup> off-site location for evacuation should Continental Elementary School be inaccessible.

## **Notification**

1. Every effort will be made to contact you as soon as the children and staff are safe. If we cannot reach you, we will contact your alternate emergency contact. Children will only be released to you or your alternate emergency contact during times of emergency. When you or your emergency contact is picking up your child, remember to have ID available. No child will be released to an adult without identification.

## **Emergency Supplies**

1. We encourage you to bring individual emergency packs (Ziploc) for each child to keep at our center that includes a change of clothes, a few family photos and a comfort item like a small teddy bear to help comfort your child during a crisis. These individual packs will be stored in our safe room and only accessed during an emergency. On withdrawal from the program, the emergency packs will be returned to the family.

## Shelter-In-Place

In Arizona, thunderstorms, flooding, overturned trucks, leaking railcars, or other dangerous situations may require us to remain in the building until authorities advise us that it is safe to leave or we are directed to evacuate.

If we are advised to Shelter-In-Place, everyone must remain in the building until authorities advise us it is safe to leave or evacuate. This is a precaution intended to keep everyone safe.

1. In the event this program is instructed by local authorities to Shelter-In-Place, children and adults, including visitors, will go to the assigned classroom, taking any cellular telephones with them.
2. Food Program Manager will bring the program's disaster Supply Kit and Lead Teachers will bring the Emergency Information and Immunization Record Cards into the shelter room.
3. Lead teachers, Admin Assistant, and Director will close and lock all windows, exterior doors, and any other openings to the outside. If told there is danger of explosion, window shades, blinds, or curtains will also be closed. Also, if directed to do so by authorities, Lead Teachers, Administrative Assistant, and/or Director will:
  - Turn off all fans, heating and air conditioning systems
  - Use duct tape and plastic sheeting to seal all cracks around doors and any vents into the room.
4. Administrative Assistant and/or Director will place signs that say, "Sheltering-In-Place" in windows and on outside doors.
5. Lead Teachers will write down the names of everyone in the room and the Administrative Assistant or Director will answer telephone inquiries from parents and authorities.

## Communication and **Parent Involvement**

### **Daily Reports**

We know that communication between center personnel and parents is essential. We make every effort to communicate to you, daily, the kind of day your child had at the center. We welcome your questions and comments.

We appreciate your sharing with us any health changes or concerns regarding your child that could influence his/her progress at the center. Information is kept confidential and will be used only to facilitate appropriate considerations to your child's special needs.

Always check the bulletin boards. Notices of upcoming projects and events will be posted for your benefit. Also, any changes in schedules will be posted for your information.

### **Weekly Activity Plan**

Weekly Activity Plans for each room and the intergenerational/music program are posted on the bulletin board. Each plan outlines daily activities and related developmental skills for that age group. Activities are designed to provide age appropriate, hands-on opportunities to acquire specific skills within each of the four areas of development.

### **Conferences**

LNDV has developed a Child Assessment Evaluation Program. You may sign up in the fall and spring of the year for individual conferences to acquaint yourself with your child's assessment.

However, if you would like an individual conference, at any time, with your child's caregiver, please talk with the Director or Assistant Director who will schedule a time convenient for everyone.



### **ParentSquare**

"ParentSquare" is our simple and secure platform for school-to-home communication. This two-way messaging, online participation and simple user interface keeps everyone connected and engaged! Parents will receive an invitation to register with "ParentSquare" upon enrollment giving them access to their child's teacher postings, classroom activities, announcements and special events.

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## Los Ninos del Valle Preschool Transition Process

### Prior to Enrollment

Each family schedules a **tour** (orientation) of the preschool meeting teachers, administration, and visiting classrooms. **Parents are encouraged to stay for an hour or two** guided by the director who introduces families to the teachers and the environment. The visiting children engage in activities while the parents and director discuss the policies and procedures as well as the curriculum, assessment process, and parent/teacher conferences. Questions regarding meal planning, school policies and children's personal property are also discussed.

Parents fill out the **"Parent Questionnaire"** which is reviewed by the director for any concerns, developmental delays, or medical conditions.

### With-In the Program

**August/September - ASQ Assessments** are given for each child, the '3' rules are explained to the children daily and the monthly curriculum focus is on **community in the classroom**.

**September/October** - All parents are encouraged to attend the annual **"Open House"** event and engage in their child's learning environment. This participation helps the child feel more **secure and adapt** more readily to their school environment.

**October/November - Family pictures** are requested as well as family information regarding **cultural diversity**. These reminders from home help the children have a **sense of belonging**.

**November** - All families are invited to the annual **Thanksgiving Feast**. This is a social event supporting community engagement and is especially important for new families who were unable to attend the Open House activity.

**December /January-** Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for sharing **Portfolios** and Teaching Strategy Gold **Assessments** with families in planning individual goals for each child

### Exiting the Program

**January/February** - Lead **teachers discuss individual children ready to transfer to the next classroom**. When children demonstrate **readiness to move to the next classroom**, they visit the new classroom for two weeks extending the visit as they adjust to full day during the morning to develop relationships with new friends, teachers, and engage in classroom activities. Teachers prepare for children's transition by preparing individual cubbies, name tags for meals, and introductions at circle time. Teachers support children's transition through interest areas, planned activities, conversation and lots of hugs!

**March** - **Post screening** meeting to determine which students need to be re-screened or referred for full evaluations. Parents are notified of screening results and given contact information for follow-up services available in the community.

**April** -Pre-K teacher starts **study on Kindergarten Readiness**, **field trips** to Continental and Sahuarita School Kindergarten Classes are scheduled, and preparation for **Preschool Graduation begins**.

**May** - Teachers meet with parents for **end of the year conferences**. Discussion includes: **Developmental milestones, expectations and activities parents can do with their children over the summer**. **"Transition Activities for Parents and Children"** is given at the conference.

### **Special Events**

Several annual events are scheduled throughout the year which are designed to provide parents, children, and other family members with fun activities to enjoy with each other at the center. Events range from Open House, Halloween activities, Holidays Around the World and, intergenerational activities. Each event is meant to be shared time which gives parents an opportunity to get to know each other, to talk with their child's caregiver, and to have an 'inside' look at their child's center experience. In addition to these annual events, Families are encouraged to share traditions and favorite activities with the center.

### **Work-Share Credits and Work Projects**

The Parent Co-Op is what helps your child benefit from quality preschool/after school child care at the lowest possible cost. The Green Valley community has been very supportive of our program due to the importance placed on the Parent Co-Op. Your commitment and participation in this program is vital to encourage extended support from the community. Work projects may include things such as building the float for the Green Valley Country Fair, participating in the Birthday Carnival, or working at a book fair. Examples of monthly work share credits are making play-dough, cutouts, laundry, or toy washing.

### **Transportation**

Los Niños del Valle Preschool provides transportation through La Posada's bus service for children 5 years and older who are participating in field trips. All drivers are employees of La Posada requiring background checks and drug testing. All vehicles used for transportation are subject to DOT standards for safety and reliability. Parents will need to provide a booster seat for their child using La Posada transportation for schedule field trips. Written permission is required from a parent before an enrolled child can participate in a field trip.



**Birthdays**

Birthday celebrations are held at the end of the lunch period. The birthday child may wear the birthday crown and is honored with the birthday song from classmates. A photograph is taken of the child with his friends and is placed on the birthday bulletin board in the front lobby until the end of the month. If your child is not scheduled to attend on his or her actual birthday, we will celebrate on the closest day following the birthday. In keeping with La Posada's healthy lifestyle program and in light of children's allergies, we ask that if you'd like to bring something to share with your child's class, that it be a non-food item, such as a small party favor. Food treats will not be allowed, and if brought will be returned to the family.

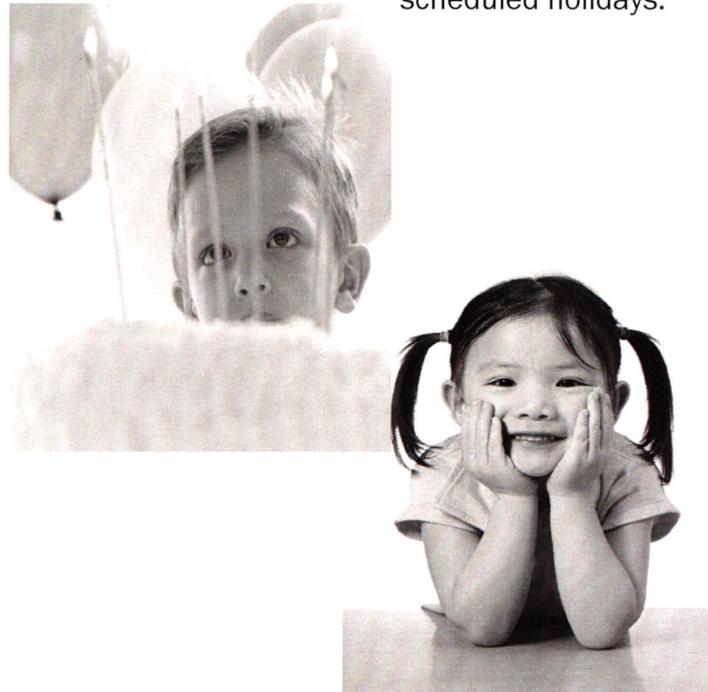
The staff will not be responsible for invitations or notes placed in cubbies by non-staff members. All non-staff use of cubbies must be cleared by the Director or Assistant Director.

**Holiday Treats**

If you'd like to share something with your child's classmates for Christmas, Valentine's Day, Halloween, or other holiday, we ask that it be a non-food item, as we do for birthdays as noted above. Small party favors may be found inexpensively at some grocery stores, the dollar store, or a party store. In keeping with a healthy lifestyle program and in light of children's allergies, food treats will not be allowed, and if brought will be returned to the family.

**Hours of Operation**

LNDV is licensed for full and part day programs for ages 1–5 years. Los Niños del Valle Child Care Center programs are open from 7:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except on scheduled holidays.



## Sharing Curriculum with Families

Before entering the program, families are taken on a tour of the school. Throughout the tour, various aspects of the curriculum are identified including The Creative Curriculum used for lesson planning, the Arizona Early Learning Standards as noted on the lessons plans, the Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment, portfolios, and teacher conferences.

1. Program information is shared with the families through our **Parent Handbook** including the philosophy of the school, social development, and emotional development, cognitive and physical development.
2. **Portfolios** are shared with families twice/year at scheduled conferences.
3. **Healthy eating is part of our curriculum** and families are encouraged to.
4. **Family communication bulletin boards are in each classroom.** Teachers share information with families regarding special activities and interest the children currently study using the online tool "Parent Square".
5. **Daily reports** are sent home each day conveying the different aspects of the curriculum such as; Intergenerational field trips, interests and activities the child enjoyed, how well the child ate and slept, and if the child had a pleasant day.
6. Families are encouraged to participate in our school activities through planned events such as; **LNDV Thanksgiving Feast, Casa Community Services White Elephant Parade float, and LNDV Birthday Carnival, the Scholastic Book Fair, school pictures, Graduation, holiday celebrations.**
7. **Parents are invited to contribute to the curriculum through shared personal or professional experiences in their child's classroom.**
8. Los Ninos has a webpage on the La Posada website. ([www.posadalife.com](http://www.posadalife.com)) Parents have access to the Parent Handbook, the calendar of events for the school, Summer Enrichment Program, Outdoor Classroom, weekly menus and the application form.
9. **Work share projects** the families help support are making play-dough, washing toys, **volunteering in the classrooms** and participating with field trips.
10. **Family literacy** is an important part of our curriculum. We have an extensive library on many subjects. We encourage families to make use of our Lending Library by choosing a book to take home each night to read together.
11. **Parent/Teachers conferences are scheduled twice/year. At these conferences, parents and teachers discuss the Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment, concerns regarding the child's development, and plans for future goals and objectives.**
12. **Parents are encouraged to review the curriculum plans posted weekly in their child's classroom as well as logging onto Los Ninos' online tool "ParentSquare". Here, parents can read posts made by lead teachers regarding activities, investigations, and opportunities to participate in their child's daily learning activities.**

## LOS NINOS DEL VALLE PRESCHOOL/CHILD CARE CENTER PLAN FOR ASSESSMENT

### ***Assessment Purposes***

Los Niños del Valle Preschool Child Care Center staff has been trained in the development and use of **Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment Portfolios**. With this ongoing assessment system, teachers continually watch, observe, and document children's development through the 36 objectives in Social-Emotional, Physical, Language, Cognitive, Literacy, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Social Studies, and the Arts. Results of assessment will be used by teachers to plan instruction for individual students, to identify children who need special services, and to evaluate the program on how well goals are being met.

### ***Name and purpose of each instrument used in our program***

- **Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment Tool**
  - This assessment is used for lesson planning, Identification of developmental delays, and family planning at conferences.
- **Individual Portfolios**
  - To document information gathered during the assessment process and to provide information gathered over a period of time
- **ESI-R Parent Questionnaire**
  - Included in enrollment packet and used to gather information from parents regarding prenatal care, birth health and developmental history, social skills, and self-help skills, etc.
- **Physical measurement**
  - To provide objective documentation of a child's growth and development
- **Observations**
  - To gather information to include in each child's portfolio about behavior, language, social skills, cognitive skills, response to voice, ability to locate sounds, general development, etc.
- **Self portraits**
  - To assess developmental changes and growth
- **Scribbling, drawing, and writing samples**
  - To provide evidence of typical, everyday performance, and
  - To provide rich documentation of the child's learning
- **ASQ-3 Ages and Stages Questionnaire**
  - To partner with parents in screening their child and identify potential developmental delays as early as possible.

### ***Assessment Conditions and Personnel***

Collections for the portfolios will be conducted by teachers according to the attached Calendar for Collection. Portfolios are considered authentic assessment which means evaluating children's growth through their daily activities, instead of using something that is not part of their regular routine, such as standardized tests. We believe that everyday

experiences most accurately show what children have learned and the progress they have made.

### ***Use of Results***

Following each collection, staff will meet to discuss the results for individual children, identify developmental objectives met, and plan activities and lessons to help each child reach the next milestone in his/her development.

Should it be determined, through assessments and conferences with families, that there is a need for outside assistance to help meet developmental goals, Easter Seals Blake Foundation and Smart Support are available for consultation providing support for the child, family, and staff.

### ***Getting the Results Out***

Family conferences will be offered in the fall and spring to each child's parents/family to discuss their child's development, opportunities and ideas for classroom activities, family involvement, and teacher support.

LOS NINOS DEL VALLE CHILD CARE CENTER  
AUGUST 07, 2017 – July 27, 2018

REGISTRATION FEE PRORATION CHART

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08/07/17	TO	09/08/17	\$60.00
09/11/17	TO	10/06/17	\$55.00
10/09/17	TO	11/10/17	\$50.00
11/13/17	TO	12/08/17	\$45.00
12/11/17	TO	01/12/18	\$40.00
01/15/18	TO	02/09/18	\$35.00
02/12/18	TO	03/09/18	\$30.00
03/12/18	TO	04/13/18	\$25.00
04/16/18	TO	05/11/18	\$20.00
05/14/18	TO	06/08/18	\$15.00
06/11/18	TO	07/27/18	\$10.00

YEARLY INSURANCE FEE (Payable at enrollment) \$25.00

In order to be prepared for the number of children scheduled for attendance each day, we ask that our families provide us with a 24 hour notice for requested days. This will ensure we are able to provide the quality child/teacher ratio and appropriate group size for the classrooms.

EXCUSED ABSENCE DAYS

Registered	08-07-17	TO	12-31-17	6 days
Registered	01-01-18	TO	07-27-18	3 days

NO EXCUSE DAYS AVAILABLE DURING SUMMER ENRICHMENT SESSION

OBSERVED HOLIDAYS

New Year's Day  
Memorial Day  
Independence Day  
Labor Day  
Thanksgiving Day  
Christmas Day



Casa Community Services provides life-enhancing programs, serving the greater Green Valley community.

Casa Community Services' vision is to improve and enhance the quality of the lives of the people we serve.



## **Los Niños del Valle**

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Green Valley, AZ 85614  
Phone: 520-625-2273 x6823 or x6833  
Fax: 520-625-1598  
[www.Casagv.org](http://www.Casagv.org)



**Eco-Healthy  
Child Care**