



Tatachilla Early Learning Centre

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

General information

When will the Early Learning Centre open?

The Early Learning Centre is anticipated to open in early 2027. A confirmed opening date will be shared once construction timelines are finalised.

Where will the ELC be located?

The ELC will be located on the Tatachilla campus opposite the EcoSanctuary, accessible via the main college entrance on Tatachilla Road. The centre will have its own dedicated car park and entrance to ensure safe and convenient access for families.

How many children will the ELC accommodate?

The centre will have capacity for up to 90 children. It will open initially with approximately 60 places before scaling to full capacity over time.

What ages will the ELC cater for?

The ELC will cater for children from three to four years of age.

What hours will the ELC operate?

The centre will operate 48 weeks of the year, offering long-day care from 7:00am to 6:00pm, Monday to Friday.

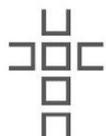
Enrolment and process

When can we enrol?

An Expression of Interest process will open online (via the college website) in advance of the 2027 opening. We will communicate clear timelines to our community once enrolment systems are finalised.

How do we enrol?

Families will be able to submit an Expression of Interest online via the college website in due course. From there, further information about application processes, tours and enrolment steps will be provided.



Will current Tatachilla families receive priority?

Enrolment processes, including any priority considerations, are currently being finalised. Further details will be shared in due course.

Will acceptance into the ELC guarantee a place in Reception at Tatachilla?

No. Enrolment in the Early Learning Centre does not guarantee acceptance into the Reception year at Tatachilla Lutheran College.

While the ELC will be located on campus and aligned with the college's values and philosophy, it will operate as its own legal entity and will maintain a separate enrolment process.

Will children at the Early Learning Centre wear the Tatachilla uniform?

Children attending the Early Learning Centre will wear an ELC uniform designed specifically for early childhood learners.

While it will not be the full Tatachilla R–12 college uniform, the ELC uniform will help foster a sense of shared identity, belonging and cohesion among the children.

The uniform is currently being finalised and is likely to include a polo shirt, winter vest, jumper and hat. Comfort, practicality and suitability for active, play-based learning will be key considerations in the final design.

Further details, including uniform items and ordering information, will be shared with families closer to the opening of the centre.

Leadership and staffing

Who will be the Director of the ELC?

The Director has not yet been appointed. A comprehensive recruitment process will be undertaken to appoint an experienced and values-aligned early childhood leader. This leader will commence in the role later in 2026, in preparation for the 2027 opening.

We will share further details once this appointment is made.

Who will teach at the ELC?

The centre will employ qualified early childhood educators who are committed to high-quality, play-based learning and relational education. Recruitment processes will begin closer to the opening date.

Educational approach

What curriculum will the ELC follow?



The ELC will follow Australia's Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) V2.0, which guides high-quality, play-based early childhood education and focuses on identity, connection, wellbeing, confidence and communication.

Will the ELC be Lutheran-based?

The Early Learning Centre will reflect Tatachilla's Lutheran heritage and values, including a strong focus on belonging, respect, service and care for creation.

Expressions of faith within the ELC will be age-appropriate, nurturing kindness, gratitude and wonder as part of a holistic learning experience and a caring community shaped by the love of Christ.

Will ELC children attend chapel services?

The approach to chapel and spiritual life within the ELC is currently being developed. Any participation in college faith activities will be age-appropriate and thoughtfully designed for young children.

Further details will be shared as the model is finalised.

How will the ELC connect with the larger college?

While operating as its own legal entity, the ELC will be co-located on college grounds and will share strong philosophical alignment with Tatachilla Lutheran College.

Children will benefit from proximity to specialist facilities and the EcoSanctuary, and families will experience the same culture of belonging that defines Tatachilla.

Clear communication will ensure families understand both the connection and the operational distinction between the ELC and the R-12 college.

Will children use the EcoSanctuary?

Yes. A distinctive feature of the ELC will be its connection to Tatachilla's EcoSanctuary and nature-based learning environments, supporting outdoor exploration and environmental stewardship.

Fees and administration

What will the fees be?

Fee structures are currently being developed. Information regarding fees and government childcare subsidies will be provided closer to the enrolment opening period.

Will Child Care Subsidy (CCS) apply?

As an approved early childhood service, families will be eligible to apply for Child Care Subsidy (CCS), subject to federal government criteria.

Further details will be provided as part of the enrolment information pack.



Will Tatachilla staff receive a staff discount for their own children who attend the Early Learning Centre?

Tatachilla staff will not receive a separate staff discount for children attending the Early Learning Centre.

Families enrolled in approved early childhood education and care services are eligible to access the **Australian Government Child Care Subsidy (CCS)**, which significantly reduces the cost of care for most families.

As Tatachilla staff will already be able to access this government subsidy, an additional staff discount will not be offered.

Construction and timeline

When will construction begin?

Construction timelines will be confirmed following final planning and approval processes. Updates will be shared with the community as the project progresses.

Will construction impact current college operations?

Careful planning will ensure that construction activity does not disrupt the daily operations, safety or learning environment of the college.

Staying informed

How can I stay updated?

Families are encouraged to:

- follow the college's social media platforms
- read the fortnightly college newsletter or visit the Tatachilla newsroom (www.tatachilla.sa.edu.au/newsroom)
- visit the 'biggest moments' section of the college website: www.tatachilla.sa.edu.au/our-biggest-moments

Final note

We are excited about the opportunity to extend Tatachilla's culture of belonging into the earliest years of childhood. We understand that families may have many additional questions as this project develops, and we are committed to communicating openly and clearly every step of the way.

Further information will be shared as decisions are finalised.