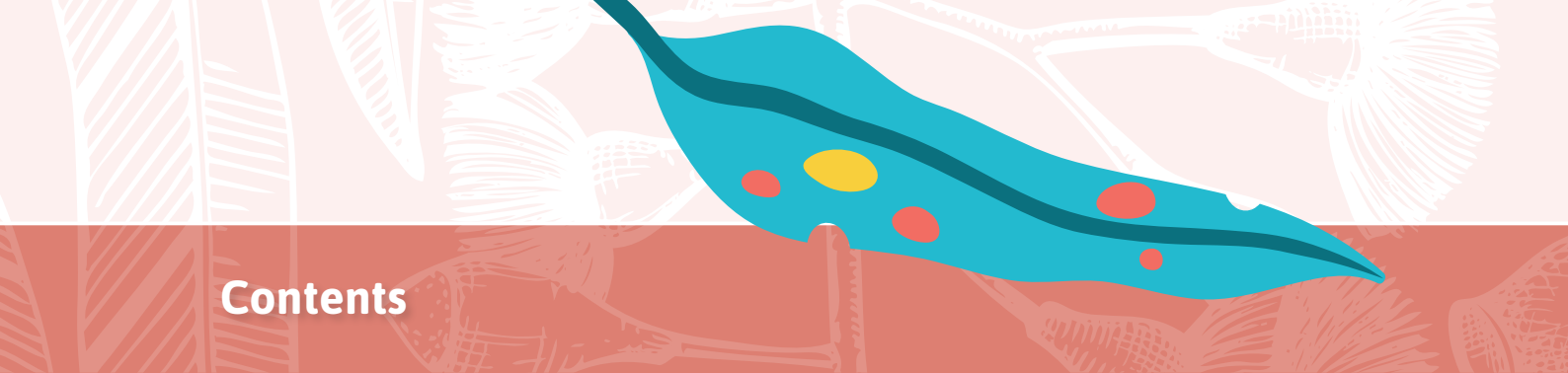




Logan Child Friendly City **Tool kit**

This tool kit is an initiative of Logan Together's Children Together Project and The Salvation Army Communities for Children Facilitating Partner Logan funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services.





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Foreword

Logan Together is a whole of community movement made up of mums, dads, government, community organisations, businesses - everyone who is on board with our mission to improve outcomes for kids in Logan. We want Logan kids to be as healthy and full of potential as any other group of Queensland kids. There are things everyone can do, at every age and stage of childhood, that can make a difference. One of the things we want to do is to make Logan a child friendly city.

How do we become a child friendly city? Part of it is creating child friendly spaces in local businesses, and keeping the needs of kids front of mind... And that is where the Logan Children's Charter and Child Friendly Tool Kit comes in. These products provide a how-to guide for local businesspeople who want to create a space welcoming to kids and their families.

The Tool Kit and the Child Friendly Charter have been developed by the Logan Together group Children Together, with partners The Salvation Army Communities for Children and Logan City Council. We want Logan to be a place where children are welcomed and embraced as active citizens who influence decisions in the city. We invite you to join us in creating an environment where children are valued, respected and have a sense of belonging and safety.

You can join us in transforming our city to become child friendly by signing up to and displaying the Charter and by using this Tool Kit to support your business or organisation in welcoming children. The products have already been trialled by some Logan businesses and we took their feedback on board to make sure they are business friendly as well as child friendly.

We love feedback and are open to new ideas - so if you have any more thoughts about these products or how we might work together in Logan to make our city more child friendly - let us know!



Matthew Cox, Director, Logan Together

We pay respect to the Traditional Owners and custodians of the Land on which our community lives, works and plays, the Yugambeh and the Jaggera people.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and seek their guidance and wisdom to ensure all children get the best start in life. We extend our respect to all Elders and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Logan and across Australia and commit to putting into action the ChangeFest Statement 2018 in our everyday practice.

<https://logantogogether.org.au/document/changefest-statement/>



1. What is a Child Friendly City?

The United Nations says a child friendly city is a city committed to improving the lives of children living in their community by realizing their rights as articulated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In practice, it is a city, town or community in which the voices, needs, priorities and rights of children are an integral part of public policies, programs and decisions.

Broadly speaking, it is a city where children:

- Are protected from exploitation, violence and abuse.
- Have a good start in life and grow up healthy and cared for.
- Have access to quality social services.
- Experience quality, inclusive and participatory education and skills development.
- Express their opinions and influence decisions that affect them.
- Participate in family, cultural, city/community and social life.
- Live in a safe, secure and clean environment with access to green spaces.
- Meet friends and have places to play and enjoy themselves.
- Have a fair chance in life regardless of their ethnic origin, religion, income, gender or ability.

We all have an important role to play in building Logan as a child friendly city.



2. Why create a Child Friendly City?

International, national and state legislation detail the rights of children and youth (under the age of 18) to participate in decisions that affect their lives.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, of which Australia is a signatory, makes it clear that young people are independent subjects and therefore have equal rights in the community.

But there are other compelling reasons to put children first.

“A person’s a person no matter how small.”

Dr Seuss

“Children have more need of models than of critics.”

Joseph Joubert

“History will judge us by the difference we make in the everyday lives of children.”

Nelson Mandela

“Children are the world’s most valuable resource and it’s best hope for the future.”

John F Kennedy

“Children are great imitators, so give them something great to imitate.”

Anon

“The day we are convinced that all the children in this world are our children, there will be peace in this land.”

Hermann Gmeiner

Kids who thrive have all the material basics they need. They are loved and safe, healthy, learning and actively participating in a community filled with aspiration and hope, where they are deeply valued and their voices are heard. (Opportunity Child) <https://opportunitychild.com.au>

And... It’s fun!

3. Establishing a Child Friendly City

We think there are three stages to a child friendly approach that businesses and organisations might want to consider. All three may not be a fit for your business or organisation so feel free to select the ones that work best for you.

The three stages are:

- You and your team embracing the child friendly approach and demonstrating this in the way you and your staff consider children. This would include committing to and displaying the Logan Children's Charter.
- Creating a child friendly space in your business or organisation.
- Taking it a bit further and actively engaging with or consulting with children.



4. Logan Together



This tool kit is a Logan Together initiative from the Children Together Project.

Logan Together is a long term, whole of community campaign to create the best life opportunities for every child in Logan.



Logan Together is everybody who cares about Logan's kids.

We're a diverse group of people from throughout the community who share a passion for our kids' future.



Logan Together, in partnership with The Salvation Army Communities for Children Facilitating Partner Logan and Logan City Council, has developed this tool kit to help businesses and organisations across Logan build a Child Friendly City.



Our vision is to inspire and enable businesses and organisations in Logan to welcome and value children, and their ideas.



For more information, check out

<http://logantogether.org.au>

<https://www.communitiesforchildrenfplogan.com.au/>

5. Logan Children's Charter

The Logan Children's Charter is a document that businesses and organisations commit to and display prominently to help build the Logan Child Friendly City movement.



Logan Children's Charter

This Charter is part of the Logan Together movement.

This Charter has been developed with children in Logan for the purpose of engaging businesses and community in a child friendly city.

Our Vision: That Logan is a child friendly city, where children are welcomed and embraced as active citizens who are influential in the decisions of the city.

Our Goals: A community where children and young people are embraced and valued as active citizens with something important to say.
A sense of belonging and safety anchored in the value and respect for all.

Safety
We are dedicated to creating a community where children are loved, cared for and feel safe.

Play and Visibility
We consider children's need for play and exploration in the design of open spaces, buildings and other places where people gather together.

Many Cultures, One Community, All Australians
We value our diverse community and embrace our differences.

Learning and Development
We deliver the highest quality early learning places, schools and other environments for children to learn, develop and grow.

Belonging
We are committed to nurturing children's individuality, their relationships and opportunities to connect with each other and their community.

Health and Wellbeing
We respect and prioritise the value of children's relationships and participation in enhancing wellbeing.

Active Participation
We provide opportunities for children to share their ideas and opinions to influence community decisions.

6. Listen 2 Connect

The Logan Children's Charter and this tool kit are aligned with and complementary to Logan City Council's Listen 2 Connect Guideline.

The Listen 2 Connect engagement guideline for children, youth and young adults in the City of Logan was created by Logan City Council in partnership with Logan Together and The Salvation Army Communities for Children Logan Facilitating Partner. The document was endorsed by Council's Executive Leadership Team in March 2018.

<https://haveyoursaylogan.engagementhq.com/30337/documents/78439>

Children, youth and young adults are important members of the community and need to be considered in all forms of community engagement. This guideline aims to provide project officers and decision makers with the tools and knowledge necessary for meaningful community engagement with children, youth and young adults in the City of Logan.

The City of Logan is often referred to as a 'young city' with around 35% of the residents aged under 25 years. Logan City Council acknowledges that the views and experiences of children, youth and young adults can add great value to decision-making processes and increase participation and pride in community services.



7. Creating a Child Friendly Space

Even if your business or organisation is not specifically targeted at children there are lots of good reasons why it is helpful to create a space that welcomes children and puts them at ease. Children often come with an adult (parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles or may be just a family friend) when they go about their daily tasks. Sometimes those tasks take much longer than planned and children become stressed or restless. When children feel welcomed in a space and there are activities for them to do, the children and the adults are usually more relaxed. This helps everyone get the job done.

It also sends a message to children that no matter where they are in Logan they are welcome and valued. And you never know, your effort might be the small thing that makes a difference for that child that day.

Creating the balance between a welcome feel for both adults and children is not always easy. It might also not be something that you are familiar with or feel skilled to do. You don't have to spend lots of money on new and colourful equipment or create an extensive children's play space.

Here are a few easy ideas and considerations to think about when creating a welcoming space for both children and adults.

How do we welcome children?

Just greeting a child, smiling, saying hello and making a comment about a toy they have or maybe their colourful shoes shows them that you have noticed them and helps them to feel welcome.

Is there anything that a child could relate to?

Try to remember what it was like to be a child. Look around your setting. What would a child think and how would they feel when they come in with an adult?

Here are a few questions you could think about:

- Does the space have pictures or images that a child could relate to?
- Is all the furniture adult size or are there provisions made for children to sit?
- Is the expectation for everyone to be quiet in the space?

Creating that child friendly 'magic'

Below are some options you might like to consider if you want to make your business or organisation child friendly.

Visual images

Even just one picture of children can help them to feel welcome in the space.

Pictures that are inclusive of all children are the best. Here are two simple examples. They do not need to be large canvases on a wall but could be A4 size placed so that when a child walks through the door they see it - perhaps on the front of the reception desk at child height.



Fixed or mobile space?

A child friendly space does not have to be a fixed location. Not every work place has enough room to set aside as separate space for children. An alternative is having an assortment of activities and materials ready to bring out if children come into your business or organisation.

Fixed space:

- Set and forget;
- Easily accessed and found by the children when they walk in;
- Toys can be changed in the space to provide variety;
- A regular tidy up will keep this space looking fresh.

Mobile space

- Activities or resources stored in baskets or boxes for easy access;
- Very flexible and able to be changed depending on the need of the children;
- Easy to pack away into a cupboard or back room.

Like the concept of 'Where's Wally', you can have a job for the children to do to find something that is relative to your business or just a fun idea. An oldie but a goodie, this is a great game that has limitless possibilities. Some examples could be:

- At a mechanic's you could have a few matchbox cars for children to find in the waiting room. It can also be their 'job' to hide them again for other children.
- At an architect or decorator's showroom dolls house furniture could be hidden. Once they find it children could set up the furniture in a play space.
- In a medical reception area laminated pictures of germs could be hidden. When children find them they could place in a pretend bin that has a picture of handwashing on it.
- Create an activity sheet that can be photocopied as needed with pictures of things for children to find around the room.

- If you provide tea and coffee for adults, have milk, juice or just water for children.
- Have one or two high chairs for babies. They may not permanently live in the waiting room but could be available if needed.
- Is there somewhere a little quieter where a baby could be fed?
- Dress up clothes are always popular. They can easily be picked up at op shops or your staff may have some old clothes, shoes and handbags they could donate. These can be stored in a basket or box and put away easily.
- Create a book box with second hand books.
- Put some big colourful pillows on the floor - children often prefer to sit on the floor rather than on an adult chair.
- Children and families are welcomed with respect and valued and supported.
- The entrance is welcoming and doors open easily.
- The aisles are wide and unobstructed.
- There is accessible parking for families with young children.



8. Taking it a bit further

Whether you are an adult focused business or organisation, or a service working directly with children there are times when it might be useful to find out the opinions of children. Children often attend coffee shops, medical and dental services, shopping centres, car sales yards, community or government services with adults so it makes sense to help them feel welcome and safe.

For example, are children often crying, distressed, loud or 'naughty' in your space? Do staff and accompanying adults find it difficult to focus as a result? Do parents and children often find it difficult to get in through your front doors? Are toilets accessible and safe for children and young families? A simple activity may give you some ideas that could help with this.

Some important things before you start

- Check the Logan City Listen 2 Connect guidelines for handy hints.
<https://haveyoursaylogan.engagementhq.com/30337/documents/78439>
- Always explain to families what you are doing and why.
- If you are actively wanting to find out children's opinions or ideas then you need to ask permission from the parent or guardian. There is a sample consent form at the back of this document that you might consider using or adapting for this purpose.
- If you wish to take photos or video then permission is also required. It is important to make sure that the parent or guardian understands how images will be used and that names and other identifying information are not used. No sample form has been supplied, one would need to be developed to suit the particular circumstances.
- Adults who are doing activities with children must have a current Blue Card
<https://www.bluecard.qld.gov.au/>.



9. Four activities to help you

When you actively want to find out young children's opinions or ideas, here are some activities you could try.

1. Voting Game

The idea of this activity is to have two or three options you are considering to see which one children prefer.

Setting up

For children under 3 years of age

Using mats is a great way for children under 3 to share their choices and is an easy way to include them in the process.

- Step 1** You will just need a few small mats (cushions or even a taped section on the floor will also work).
- Step 2** Set up the mats or cushions in a space away from where people walk.
- Step 3** Place a sample of the option you are considering at each mat.
- Step 4** Watch where the child crawls or walks to. Allow them to play for a few minutes. Which one are they most interested in?

For children over 3 years of age

Voting Jars is a great way for older children to provide their feedback on an idea. Children can 'vote' for their preference by placing a token in the jar of the option they like best.

- Step 1** Set up empty jars at a space and height that works for children.
- Step 2** Place a picture or sample of each option in front of a jar.
- Step 3** Provide tokens for children to place in the jar they like best. Tokens could be stones, buttons or small pieces of coloured paper.

Things to consider

- Set up in a space where children can access but not become a trip hazard;
- Voting tokens should be bigger than fifty cent pieces so they are not a choking hazard.

2. Let them play test

The purpose is to test an idea in a public space. This activity could be used if you are running a stall at an expo or in a shopping centre. By watching how children play with your idea you can check how this works for them. You will need an adult 'observer' who 'plays' with the children and notes their choices.

Young children feel more comfortable when a familiar adult is with them so be sure to include their parent or carer. When adults come to participate with their child it will be important to have information about the purpose of the activity.

Setting up

For children under 3 years of age

Using mats is a great way for children under 3 to share their choices and is an easy way to include them in the process.

- Step 1** Set up a soft space which is inviting for babies and young children to crawl in and large enough for several adults and young children. We suggest a large mat with a blanket on top.
- Step 2** Add some cushions for adults to sit on and little ones to crawl over.
- Step 3** Add samples of the options you are considering. This could be laminated simple photos, fabric and colour samples, toy and play options.
- Step 4** Take note of which options most interest the little ones.

For children over 3 years of age

- Option 1:** Set up choices like a circuit for children to try each one. This could be several small tables and chairs with an option at each. Let the children play with all the options and then ask them which they liked best.
- Option 2:** Cover small tables with paper. Provide crayons, textas or coloured pencils and ask children to draw their ideas. You could also use play dough, modelling clay or blocks and ask children to build their ideas.

You can have a lot of fun with both these options. By asking open questions you invite children to share ideas you may never have thought of.

Here are some examples:

- What is your favourite thing to do?
- Why is it your favourite?
- What do like best about (our shop/ shopping centre/ library)?
- Where do you feel happy?
- What makes you happy?

Things to consider

Set up the activities in a space away from the main walkway. There should be room for multiple children and adults together. For children over 3 the space will need to allow for children to move easily from one idea to other.

9. Four activities to help you

3. Which one do you like best?

This is another way of finding out which option children prefer. In this activity an adult sits with children (and their parents or carers). The adult shows children either pictures or a video of options and ask “which one do you like best?”

Setting up

For children under 3 years of age

This activity works best with a small group of children aged 2-3 years.

- Step 1** Set up an inviting space on the floor with a rug and cushions to sit on.
- Step 2** Gather a small group of children together and show them laminated pictures or a video. If you are using pictures pass them to the children so they can handle them and look at them closely.
- Step 3** Ask the children what they notice and like about each picture.
- Step 4** Place the visuals on the floor (if they are images) and ask the children to pick the one they like the best.
- Step 5** Record what they discussed.

For children over 3 years of age

This activity would be best to do with a small group of children.

- Step 1** Step up a small table, laminated pictures (or video), paper and textas, crayons or coloured pencils.
- Step 2** Gather a small group of children together and show them pictures or video.
- Step 3** Ask the children what they notice and like about each picture.
- Step 4** Ask the children to think about their ideas and to draw them.
- Step 5** Record what they discuss whilst drawing for further ideas.

Things to consider

For the over 3 years of age activity a small child sized table would be ideal, however the children could sit on the floor with clipboards to complete their drawings. Chairs would not be necessary at the table.

4. How do I feel about that?

This activity goes beyond asking which option children prefer and is useful if you want to understand how they feel about an idea. It could be combined with Activity 3.

Setting up

For children under 3 years of age

Very young children are often not able to express in words how they feel about an idea. A great way to get their genuine feedback is by observing their emotional response to pictures or video.

- Step 1** Use tips from **Creating a child friendly space** to set up an area that is away from the main public places, but not closed in so children feel trapped.
- Step 2** Organize how you will get the permission from the parent or guardian (see example at the end of this kit)
- Step 3** Use the tips from **Which one do you like best?** to set up pictures or a video for the children to view. Have these easily accessible for the children to see.
- Step 4** Make a note of the children's emotional response.

For children over 3 years of age

Children 3 years of age and older often surprise us in their ability to tell us clearly how they feel about ideas. Asking open questions to prompt their feelings will assist them in sharing their thoughts.

- Step 1** Use tips from **Creating a child friendly space** to set up some chairs or cushions.
- Step 2** Organize how you will get the permission from parent or guardian.
- Step 3** Use the tips from **Which one do you like best?** to set up pictures or a video for the children to view. Have these easily accessible for the children to see.
- Step 4** Make a note of the children's conversation and emotional responses.

Things to consider

You will need permission from the parent or guardian to talk with the child.

10. Gaining Consent

Consent to engage with children - Sample Form

Dear Parent/Guardian

We _____ (Business/ Organisation name)

are working on the following project

and would like to ask children about their thoughts and preferences.

The information gained will help us to _____

We are asking permission to engage with your children. This may be done in a variety of ways which might include:

- Asking a few simple questions about pictures or activities.
- Asking them to draw (represent through art) things that are important to them.

The children will be supported through this process and they do not have to take part if they do not want to.

I _____ (please print name of Parent/Guardian)

agree for

_____ (Child's Name)

to be involved in the engagement as described above.

Signed _____ Dated _____

Contact Phone Number _____

Please note: This does not give permission for filming or the taking of pictures.

Thank you for participating.

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Contact: info@logantogether.org.au
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