

Aspen Community Early Learning Centre – Inala, Brisbane

“We used to manage the meals ourselves, but as we grew and with so many dietary needs it just became too complicated. Now, everything flows.”

Marie, Centre Director, Aspen Community Early Learning Centre

RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

Aspen Community Early Learning has been part of the Inala community since 1976, caring for children aged six weeks to five years in a rich, multicultural setting. The not-for-profit centre is run by a parent management committee and supports a strong Vietnamese population. It offers more than early learning providing advocacy, practical support and a trusted community presence.

The centre originally prepared meals in-house, but as enrolments grew, so did the complexity. Meeting cultural requirements, managing allergies, and maintaining compliance became difficult with a small kitchen and limited resources. Partnering with The Wellbeing Food Co provides a safe, reliable solution. Today, mealtimes run smoothly, without the pressure of planning, cooking and constant adaptation.

MAKING MEALTIMES EASY

With minimal kitchen space, the team at Aspen simply roster an educator to reheat and serve meals at designated times and to handle a quick clean-up afterwards. The process fits easily into the day, freeing staff from the time-consuming tasks of food prep and dietary coordination.



SNAPSHOT

- Centre capacity: 75 children.
- Community profile: 85% Vietnamese.
- Special dietary needs: Many cultural considerations (including halal) and allergies.

HEALTHY HUMANS AND HAPPY FAMILIES

The children love pasta and rice dishes, but mashed potato unfamiliar in many of their home cuisines has become a surprise hit! Fresh vegies made for little fingers to pick up are also a favourite. And for a centre that supports many families with English as a second language, the ability to focus more on care, connection and advocacy is invaluable. Educators often support families navigating the health system and early intervention pathways. Vietnamese staff often step in as interpreters, helping parents access the services their children need.

“This is a safe place,” says Marie. “We are really here for families and that trust makes a big difference. Some of the children I have educated have even returned as student educators, inspired by the support they and their families received. That’s an incredible reward.”

”

Knowing meals meet all our dietary and compliance needs is a huge relief. It means we can focus more on our children and families.

”

We’re genuinely diverse, with a large Vietnamese community. Cultural needs, halal meals and allergy management are essential.

”

This centre has always been about more than just education. We’re advocates, a safe place, and a real part of the community.