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## PRIVACY POLICY

January 2025

### 1. PART 1 – ABOUT THIS POLICY

#### 1.1 Purpose

Little Leaps Speech Therapy is committed to protecting the privacy of personal information we collect and hold about individuals.

Little Leaps Speech Therapy complies with the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs) under the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth), other privacy laws that govern how private sector health service providers like Little Leaps Speech Therapy handle your personal information (including your health information), and Speech Pathology Australia's Code of Ethics (2010).

This Privacy Policy explains how Little Leaps Speech Therapy manages the personal information we collect, use and disclose.

Little Leaps Speech Therapy is a private speech pathology practice under the ownership of Samara Nield.

### 2. PART 2 – HOW LITTLE LEAPS SPEECH THERAPY HANDLES YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

#### 2.1 Little Leaps Speech Therapy Legal Obligations

In order to provide you with the health care services that you have requested; Little Leaps Speech Therapy will need to collect and use your personal information. If you provide incomplete or inaccurate information to us or withhold personal and health information from us, we may not be able to provide you with the services you are seeking.

#### 2.2 What information does Little Leaps Speech Therapy collect?

We will only collect the information we need to provide quality speech pathology assessment and/or therapy services.

We collect information from you that is necessary to provide you with speech pathology services and to manage our relationship with you. The information we collect includes: your child's name, date of birth, address, parental/caregiver's name/s phone number/s and emails, health fund details and information about your child's health history and family history. We may also request current and/or previous correspondence from other health providers involved in your child's care. If your child is eligible for any government funding packages, we will also require details and relevant paperwork for this. We require this information to assist the speech pathologist to diagnose and treat your child.

#### 2.3 How does Little Leaps Speech Therapy collect health information?

We will usually collect your health information directly from you, either over the phone, via our intake form or during your child's initial appointment. Sometimes, we may need to collect information about you from a third party (such as a relative or another health service provider).

#### 2.4 How does Little Leaps Speech Therapy use your information?



Little Leaps Speech Therapy uses your personal information for the purpose you have given the information to us. We will use your information to provide speech pathology services to you and your child, to manage our relationship with you and to contact you in relation to matters concerning your child's care. We may also use your information for other purposes permitted under the Privacy Act 1988.

Who might we disclose your information to?

We may disclose your information to the following people:

(a) disclosure to other health professionals involved in your child's treatment

Your personal information will generally only be used by the speech pathologist involved in your child's care, however on occasion your child's care may be provided by a number of health professionals (for example, speech pathologist, occupational therapist, psychologist and/or paediatrician) working and consulting together. We may disclose your information to these health professionals as part of the process of providing your child's care and to other health professionals involved in your care.

(b) the referrer

Little Leaps Speech Therapy will usually send a summary of results and/or a discharge summary to the referrer (i.e., your medical practitioner) following your child's assessment, therapy block or discharge from Little Leaps Speech Therapy or at other times, as required for your child's care.

If you do not wish us to provide a copy of your service summaries to the referrer you must let us know. Also, if the referrer's details have changed, please let us know.

(c) Relatives, guardian, close friends or legal representative

We may provide information about your child's diagnosis or treatment to grandparents, other relatives, close personal friends and/or guardians who have shared care of your child, unless you tell us that you do not wish us to disclose your child's health information to any such person.

(d) Other uses and disclosures

In order to provide the best possible environment in which to treat your child, we may also use or disclose your child's personal and health information where necessary for:

- activities such as quality assurance processes, accreditation, audits, risk and claims management, patient satisfaction surveys and staff education and training;
- invoicing, billing and account management;
- to liaise with your health fund, Medicare or the Department of Veteran's Affairs and where required provide information to your health fund, Medicare or the Department of Veteran's Affairs to verify treatment provided to you;
- the purpose of sending you standard reminders, for example for appointments and follow-up care, by text message or email to the number or address which you have provided to us.

(e) Other uses with your consent

With your consent we may also use your information for other purposes such as including you on a marketing mail list, or research. Please note, however, that unless you provide us with your express consent for this purpose, we will not use your information in this way. We will not disclose your personal information to any individual who is outside Australia.

## 2.5 Access to and correction of your health information

You have a right to access the personal and health information that we hold about your child. You can also request an amendment to your child's personal and health information should you believe that it is inaccurate.

If we do not agree to change your child's medical record/personal information in accordance with your request, we will permit you to make a statement of the requested changes and we will enclose this with your record.



Should you wish to obtain access to or request changes to your child's health record you can ask for our Privacy Officer (see details below) who can give you more detailed information about Little Leaps Speech Therapy's access and correction procedure.

Please note that Little Leaps Speech Therapy may recover reasonable costs associated with supplying this information to you.

#### 2.6 Data Quality

Little Leaps Speech Therapy will take reasonable steps to ensure that your child's personal information which we may collect, use or disclose is accurate, complete and up to date.

#### 2.7 Data Security

Little Leaps Speech Therapy will take reasonable steps to protect your child's personal information from misuse, interference, loss, unauthorised access, modification, or disclosure. We use technologies and processes such as access control procedures, network firewalls, encryption, and physical security to protect your and your child's privacy.

Little Leaps Speech Therapy will destroy or permanently de-identify any of your child's information which is in its possession or control and which is no longer needed for the purpose for which it was collected, provided and/or Little Leaps Speech Therapy is not required under an Australian law or court/tribunal or otherwise to retain the information.

#### 2.8 Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

As part of our services, we may utilise Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies to assist with the dictation and storage of session notes, as well as the writing and summarizing of reports. The AI tools we use are designed to enhance the efficiency and accuracy of our documentation process. Please note that while these tools assist in generating content, we take privacy and confidentiality seriously. Any data processed through AI systems will be handled in compliance with relevant privacy regulations, and measures are in place to ensure that patient information remains secure and confidential.

These systems comply with the Australian Privacy Principles, the Privacy Act, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

All data that is collected within these systems are encrypted when in transit and resting. Any information that is provided directly to these systems are not be visible, accessible or shared with any other subscriber, nor will they be imitated as answers to any other subscribers.

#### 2.9 What to do if you have a complaint about privacy issues

If:

- (a) you have questions or comments about this Privacy Policy;
- (b) Little Leaps Speech Therapy does not agree to provide you with access to your child's personal information;
- or
- (c) you have or a complaint about our information handling practices,

You can lodge a complaint with or contact our Privacy Officer on the details below. We will promptly review your complaint and provide a response to you.

#### 2.9 How to contact us if you have a complaint about privacy issues

By letter: Samara Nield, Little Leaps Speech Therapy, 2 Edward Street, Loxton, SA 5333

By email: [samara@littleleapsspeechtherapy.com.au](mailto:samara@littleleapsspeechtherapy.com.au)

By telephone: 0421172655

### PART 3 – HOW LITTLE LEAPS SPEECH THERAPY HANDLES YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION WHEN YOU VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Developed by Samara Nield, Little Leaps Speech Therapy

Updated On: January 2025

Review date: January 2026, or earlier as required



This section of our Privacy Policy explains how we handle your personal information which is collected from our website: [www.littleleapsspeechtherapy.com.au](http://www.littleleapsspeechtherapy.com.au).

This Privacy Policy applies to your use of our website and the use of any of the facilities on our website.

### 3.1 Collection

When you use our website, we do not attempt to identify you as an individual user and we will not collect personal information about you unless you specifically provide this to us.

Sometimes, we may collect your personal information if you choose to provide this to us via an online form or by email, for example, if you:

- submit a general enquiry via our contacts page;
- submit a general referral via our online referral form; or
- send a written complaint or enquiry to our Privacy Officer.

When you use our website, our Internet Service Provider (ISP) may record and log for statistical purposes the following information about your visit:

- your computer address;
- your top level name (for example, .com, .gov, .org, .au etc.);
- the date and time of your visit;
- the pages and documents you access during your visit; and
- the browser you are using.

Our web-site management agent may use statistical data collected by our ISP to evaluate the effectiveness of our website.

### 3.2 Cookies

A "cookie" is a device that allows our server to identify and interact more effectively with your computer. Cookies do not identify individual users, but they do identify your ISP and your browser type.

This website uses temporary cookies. This means that upon closing your browser, the temporary cookie assigned to you will be destroyed and no personal information is maintained which will identify you at a later date.

Personal information such as your email address is not collected unless you provide it to us. We do not disclose domain names or aggregate information to third parties other than agents who assist us with this website and who are under obligations of confidentiality. You may be able to configure your browser to accept or reject all cookies and to notify you when a cookie is used. We suggest that you refer to your browser instructions or help screens to learn more about these functions. However, please note that if you configure your browser so as not to receive any cookies, a certain level of functionality of the Little Leaps Speech Therapy website and other websites may be lost.

### 3.3 Links to third party websites

We may create links to third party websites. We are not responsible for the content or privacy practices employed by websites that are linked from our website.

### 3.4 Use and disclosure

We will use any personal information collected via our website in accordance with our privacy policy.

