

Introduction

Transitioning to primary school from long day care, kindergarten or care in the home is a big step for young children. For many children, this step will also include attending outside school hours care (OSHC). Whether attendance be morning, afternoon, every day or casual, there is much that can be done to prepare young children for a school day that includes OSHC.

It is important that children get to know the educators that will be caring for them when they go to OSHC. At Robina OSHC, we have experienced and qualified Coordinators and educators leading the program and facilitating enjoyable experiences for the children.

We display pictures of our staff at the service and wear uniforms so that educators can be readily identified by children. Families are welcome to bring their children to spend some time at the service before they officially start school.

Safety and Wellbeing

Children's safety and wellbeing is critical and at Robina OSHC we ensure children's safety by:

- Walking children to their classroom in the morning and collecting children from their classroom in the afternoon
- Implementing sun-safe practices
- Providing adequate and nutritious food and drink
- Ensuring adequate supervision of children
- Supporting children to manage and negotiate acceptable levels of risk in their play
- Managing risk in the environment by removing or making hazards inaccessible
- Listening to children and taking their ideas seriously



To help us meet the needs of your child, we ask that you:

- Let us know important information about your child to ensure we are equipped to effectively care for your child.
- Inform us of any changes that we need to know about.
- Communicate when your child will not be attending care for a regular booked session.
- There are times when families have complex needs and we work to ensure privacy and confidentiality at all times.

Communication and Expectations

Communication between the service and the school is important and we encourage that you share important information with both the teachers and the OSHC staff. When the school and OSHC can communicate effectively and work together, this results in a strong and supportive environment for children and families.

Families may have expectations of what their children will do when they are at OSHC. Advising the service of these expectations can be helpful to ensure that the care provided meets the needs of the family and the child. The OSHC program aims to complement rather than duplicate the school day and children will be able to participate in a variety of recreational and leisure experiences with a focus on fun and friendships.

Young children are often tired at the end of the school day and may take some time to settle into the routine of a school day that includes either before school care, after school care or both. If your child has a particular need for rest and relaxation, the service will endeavour to meet those needs in an appropriate way. Please discuss any concerns that you have with our OSHC Coordinators.

We have created a children's handbook for all new enrolments. This handbook is a child friendly introduction to OSHC and provides an overview of what they can expect, what is expected of them and some tips on how to keep safe and well while at the service. This is a great resource for children and families to go through together to develop a shared understanding of Outside School Hours Care. We look forward to working with you and your child.

10 Tips for a successful school & OSHC Transition

- ✓ Talk to your child about OSHC and how it is different to school and that they will have a lot of choice about how they spend their time but there are also some rules for keeping safe.
- ✓ Let your child know that when the school bell rings and it is time to go home that they will be picked up by an educator to go to after school care to have some food and some fun.
- ✓ When you drop your child off to before school care let them know that an educator will walk them to class after they have had a play and perhaps something to eat.
- ✓ Help your child understand that there are lots of older children at OSHC and that it may seem very busy but the OSHC staff can help to find a buddy to look out for them.
- ✓ If your child gets tired after a school day, let them know that they can rest and relax at after school care.
- ✓ Let your child know that the OSHC staff care about them and if they have a problem they can let the staff know (a dedicated prep educator will be delegated and introduced to children to provide support in the first term of school)
- ✓ Communicate regularly about anything that may affect your child's day...small things to adults can be big things to children.
- ✓ Share with the staff any specific settling or calming techniques that may work with your child should they be upset.
- ✓ Complete all enrolment and orientation processes informing the service of your child's preferences so their needs can be met in the most appropriate way.
- ✓ Feel confident and assured knowing that your child is having a good time and being well cared for before and after school.

Transitioning To School

A Parents Guide to a School day that
Includes OSHC



Robina Outside School Hours Care

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