



## **Transition to Out of School Hours Care**

Samuel Gilbert Out of School Care provides a in depth and quality transition program to support new children and their families to the service. Working collaboratively with families, educators can support children to actively prepare for transition between settings and experiences. Our compulsory orientation session is a time to view the service, meet our team of educators and information sharing between children, families and educators prior to commencement. This valuable information assists the team in programming for your child and family's needs and interests. We encourage families if taking time off to transition their kindy children in the first week to also attend Before and After school care. Families are always welcome

When a child first attends an Out of School Hours it involves a great deal of change especially if they are kindergarten children. To ease this transition, our educators will always discuss starting school and Out of School Hours Care in a positive manner that reinforces a healthy attitude toward the transition.

Our "About You" (K-2) or "Extra Extra" (3-6) form provides an insight to each child's interests which assists greatly in programming for individual children.

Older children will be buddied with a staff educator and year group child and or friend; they will assist with expectations of OOSH, routines and play areas.

A copy of our "Welcome to OOSH" book is given to all kindergarten children on commencement at the service. The book will also help familiarise your child with the service.

Educators are allocated to each year group to provide children with consistency and cater for the varying needs of the different ages eg. kindergarten children are walked to and from their classrooms for the first term or as per discussion with the service and family.

Starting school and Out of School Hours Care can be overwhelming for kindergarten children so we have implemented a number of procedures in partnership with the school to reduce their worries.

- The school provides kindergarten class lists to the service
- Children remain in their classes and collected by our educators; we aim for the same educators to do this. We have found that kindy educators provide a familiar face which reassures and comforts children. Most children settle in happily within the first couple of weeks but don't worry if your child takes a little longer to adjust. Through conversations between educators and families we will find a way.
- The first week of school children finish school at 2.30pm and will remain in the classroom to play then collected prior to bell time by a familiar OOSH staff member

- We maintain close working relationships with kindergarten teachers in order to continual support of children particularly during term 1.
- Children are provided with a name tag for the first couple of weeks
- A orientation survey will be issued to families this information will be utilised to improve our practices
- A kindergarten specific program is developed to promote participation in activities
- The Early Years Learning Framework will be implemented for children who have not turned 5 on commencement at the service

### **Within the service**

- Kindergarten children are grouped together for afternoon tea this enables educators to monitor all children and encourage friendships based on their interests
- Older children are asked to support kindergarten children in developing awareness of the service routine and rules
- Kindergarten educator will provide a guided tour of the service so children learn areas where they can play both inside and outside
- Educators will continually communicate with families during the first few weeks and beyond to check that your expectations of the service are being met and your child/family are settling in.
- Educators discuss new children at regular staff meetings
- Educators are allocated to a year group for six months
- Towards the end of term 1 educators assist Kindergarten children to walk down to roll call from their classes. We encourage children to walk through the main school courtyard.
- Children attend roll call outside the main office.

For further information on transition visit - <https://www.startingblocks.gov.au/other-resources/factsheets/how-can-you-help-your-child-settle-into-child-care/>