

Hello and welcome to the Hangout Outside Of School Hours Care,

We cannot wait to meet everyone and share many memorable experiences with you and your children!

The Hangout Outside of School Hours Care (OSHC) is privately owned and operated by Alison Hodgson and Renee Scorer, who host many years of experience in early childhood Centres including outside of school hours and Long day care.

Our Program is tailored to meet the school community needs with our main focus being the children. The children at our centre share with us their ideas and we aim to utilise these idea's to make a fun filled program chosen by them!

Our program is based around fun!!!

Yes we may climb trees and explore sticks and pebbles but that's what childhood is all about! Being Reggio inspired, we aim to bring all these FUN and holistic experiences to life through our programs!

Planting seeds and making a mess to chilling with a movie or computer game, our program is designed so every child enjoys their time with us doing what THEY would like to do!

We have art and craft available constantly as well as cooking activities and sports! We cater for everyone's interests and skills and if we don't have something, we can get it!

Programs are available for families, so they can see just a few of our daily activities, but we always have more happening every day because the children's ideas and interests change every day!

Our programs follow the 'My Time, Our Place' curriculum and are supported through our journal and term planner. There is always information at the centre for families to view what their children are up to here and our staff are always excited to share the children's day with their family!

Vacation Care is fun filled, nonstop awesomeness for your kids and their friends! Excursions, adventures and learning! Families have a piece of mind that there is no additional costs for excursions with breakfast and afternoon tea provided for all of our children. Families bring along morning tea and Lunch

for the kids so educators have 'all hands on deck' for excellent supervision and awesome activities!

Q&A

Will my child be properly supervised?

The Hangout Outside of School Hours Care follow above set ratios. The national standard is 1 staff to each 13 children, and 1 staff to 10 children, if there is kindy children at the centre.

Our staff are highly experienced and trained to ensure the safety of all children on excursions and during their time at the centre.

We conduct regular head counts, and staff are required to know each child as an individual, thus not relying on strong coloured vests etc. to identify a child. Records of head counts and 'child checks' are available to families at the end of each excursion so they can rest assured that staff have maintained a clear knowledge of your child's adventures with us.

For each excursion staff complete a comprehensive excursion plan and risk assessment to ensure that we are well prepared and ready for a fun filled day! Risk assessments and excursion plans are kept in the centre 'excursion file' and families are welcome to view these or request an emailed copy.

Where the staff deem that the excursion will be busy with lots of other children, children will be given a form of identification with the centre number in addition to our strong child: educator relationships.

Staff are given several children in their 'group' who they are responsible for, this aims to ensure that the children are easily accounted for and they can get the most out of their time with us.

What time do excursions leave?

Excursions usually depart at approximately 10am and return by 3pm, however depending on the excursion, they may depart and return at varying times. It's always best to check your program and permission slips, for accurate times and schedules.

Who attends excursions?

Carmel excursions are exclusive to the students who attend this service.

Each service has its own programs and excursions which the children from the service contribute their idea's to build a holiday program THEY want to do.

This holidays at Carmel School, all children are invited to participate together. As the service grows there may be the option of split age groups if families wish.

On each excursion a minimum of one qualified educator and a supervising officer is in attendance, along with supporting staff are required.

All staff are required to have a senior first aid certificate to supervise an excursion.

What type of Food are my children served? What should I pack?

Families are asked to provide a packed morning tea and lunch for their child and the staff prepare breakfast and afternoon tea.

Only dairy or parve foods can be brought to the Hangout Outside Of School Hours Care – Carmel

Lunch boxes must NOT contain the following:

- Meat
- Food derived from meat products
- shellfish

These foods may not be brought onto the premises of 'The Hangout Outside Of School Hours Care – Carmel'

Any food served by the Hangout Outside Of School Hours - Carmel is prepared strictly in accordance with the laws of Kashrut.

Will my child's cultural needs and beliefs be respected and represented?

The School's program supports the observance of Jewish values.

The Hangout Outside of School Hours Care liaise with Carmel School to ensure that all areas remain respectful to the school and community values.

Our staff are required to complete training and obtain a firm understanding of Judaism to ensure that families feel at ease with sharing their culture and traditions with the service.

We aim to reflect the community's involvement through our programs and whole heartedly invite families to share their skills, knowledge and ideas with our welcoming staff.

What about holidays and festivals?

The Hangout Outside Of School Hours Care – Carmel are respectful to Jewish holidays and will not open this service for such days. Mirrabooka service offers availability should it be required.

On National Holidays we may open if there is a need and enough interest to do so.

My child has an additional need, will this affect their care at The Hangout?

Every child is valued and invited to participate in our service programs.

Our team are extensively trained in anaphylaxis management, Epilepsy management, Asthma management, child development, Behavioural guidance, Autism, Trauma and areas of specific needs as required.

When a child has a need our team must be mindful of, such as Asthma, we request that the family complete one of our forms to share as much information about your child as possible. This enables us to provide the best possible care and support for your child.

What happens when my child goes outside?

Each child is encouraged to apply sun cream and a hat when going outdoors. When we leave the room, children bring their own drink bottle, which families must provide with their name on it.

An Educator accompanies the children at all times whilst they attend a session at The Hangout, children are never left unsupervised outside.

Checks are made before children enter an outdoor area to ensure that area meets our strict safety requirements.

How do you keep sickness from spreading?

Families come down sick, most frequently in the winter months. We ask that children who are unwell to remain home until they are well enough to return.

Children in group settings can pass sickness quickly, to minimise the risk to children and staff we practice stringent handwashing practices.

The toys and space are cleaned regularly with kosher approved cleaning products. The brand we use is 'Earth Choice'.

How can I be involved in the service?

We invite all new children to participate in a 1 hour orientation session prior to commencing, with their parent / carer. This enables staff and families to get to know one and other and build a trusting relationship.

Family input is always welcome at The Hangout, we want to hear about your week end and share your special occasions with you!

Family members and friends may choose to volunteer, and join our excursions or care sessions.

How do I communicate with the service?

The Hangout OSHC utilises many ways to communicate. Families may catch information with the use of Facebook, Email, Notices, message slips on bags, sign in, and good old conversation.

Photos and information will not be released on any social media without the parent consent.

Families can always call and talk to Renee on 0404 385 162 with any questions and queries or email Renee at renee@thehangoutoshc.com.au

What happens if my child is teased or bullied?

'The Hangout' has a very strong stance on any kind of bullying behaviour. Staff once aware are very active in supporting the children to resolve any issues and prevent such behaviour.

The Hangout has programs which support children to develop self-esteem and resilience. These programs include our highly successful, Fantastic Feelings and Beat the Bullies Programs, run by our Youth Councillor.

Our Youth Councillor can also be made available for 1:1 sessions for children who need extra support and strategies.

Will my child have the opportunity to complete homework?

YES! Our staff will help children complete homework as part of our homework club! Just be sure to let our friendly team know that you wish for your child to participate.

Can my child bring electronics?

During the school holidays we are a little more relaxed, however we do ask that they stay safely at home, as the staff can't take responsibility for any valuable items.

During vacation Care the Centre may plan an electronics day. On these days families can provide an electronic device, and when they are not in use staff will lock them away securely.

What if I have an idea?

Come to us and share your ideas! We want to hear your thoughts, ideas, compliments and concerns. Our team is very approachable and will do their absolute best to meet everyone's needs and implement new ideas.

Who are the Educators?

Renee Scorer:

Renee has 10 years' experience in long day care, outside of School hours Care and Directing services guiding services through high quality standards during assessment and rating and ongoing programs. As a mother of 3 children, 2 teenage boys and a young daughter, Renee truly relates to family's needs, concerns and expectations of quality childcare. Renee is genuine and caring and very approachable for families to come too with their needs.

Alison Hodgson:

Alison has over 15 years' experience in coordinating and directing a variety of services, and supporting numerous teams through accreditation and the changes with the early childhood curriculum. Alison is a mother to a young baby girl and a foster mother to a Teen daughter, bringing experience, understanding and support to families. Alison has extensive training and certificates in Trauma, behavioural issues and psychological development.

Jamie Scott:

Jamie is our room leader, who is currently completing her Diploma in Childcare. Jamie has been working with The Hangout for the past 2 years and is innovative and loves to plan exciting and FUN activities for the children. Jamie has completed her 1st year in teaching and enjoys helping children with homework and academics.

Chloe Ward:

Imagine a 'high 5' star, with over 20 years childcare experience, Chloe is experienced and skilled with knowing what the children enjoy and what families need. Chloe is warm, friendly and so creative! Children flock to see what craft Chloe has planned for the day and love to spend time with her!

Becky Gibson:

Becky joins us from Ruth Landau Harp, we are so excited to have Becky join our team and support families through the transition into The Hangout OSHC.

Most of you will know Becky as a warm and caring educator, who has built some special bonds with children and families currently attending.