

Occasional Care - Time Out For Parents

How often have you had to re-schedule appointments or decline social invitations because you didn't have anyone to look after the kids? How many times have you needed some time to yourself to shop, visit friends or just get some work done but couldn't organise a babysitter?

At Maraylya Early Learning Centre we know exactly how limiting it can be when families don't have flexible, reliable childcare options available to them.

It's really important for Mums and Dads, and even grandparents, to have an opportunity to take time out. They need to be able to do certain things, like visit the doctor or dentist, by themselves without having to worry about who is looking after the kids and what they are getting up to. They also need to have the option of 'time-out' from the kids without having to pay for regular, long-day, child care.



We have set-up the occasional care service at Maraylya as a direct response to this need for flexibility. Many parents don't want to, or can't, place their child in regular long-day care and this option can give them access to safe, reliable child care if and when they need it.

As well as giving Mum or Dad some much-needed time out, occasional care can also provide an introduction to childcare for younger children who may benefit from a more gradual approach to being placed in centre-based care. It can assist with the "socialisation" of your child and provide valuable opportunities for interaction with children of a similar age. All of which occurs in an environment that is regulated on the number of children, size of rooms and playgrounds and the ratio of staff/carers to children.

Here are some commonly asked questions about our occasional care service:

1. On what days of the week is occasional care available at the Centre?

Occasional care is available Monday through to Friday, 6.30am to 6.30pm.

2. How much notice do I need to provide to book into occasional care?

The more notice you can provide the Centre, the better prepared we can be to meet your needs. One day's notice is sufficient however - we do understand that sometimes things come up unexpectedly. When you know what day/s you require, just phone the Centre and we will check availability for you straight away.

3. What are the costs of occasional care?

Our occasional care fees are the same as our long day care fees which are:

- Children 0-2 years are \$80 per day
- Children 2-3 years are \$72 per day
- Children 3-6 years are \$68 per day
- Half Days \$50 (maximum 4 hours)

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4. Is government assistance available for occasional care?

Our Centre is licensed and highly accredited by the NCAC. By contacting the Family Assistance Office and quoting our Customer Reference Number 407 185 690H your rebate entitlement can be calculated.

5. Can I leave my child in the care of the Centre for just a couple of hours.

Yes, we also offer half days where possible.

6. Are there separate rooms for different age groups?

Yes. Children have different learning needs at different ages and our Centre specifically caters for those needs to ensure the children gain maximum benefit from their time at our Centre. We have the following groups:

- a. Bumble Bees - Children 0 - 2 years
- b. Caterpillars - Children 2 - 3 years
- c. Butterflies - Children 3 - 4 years
- d. Dragonflies - Children 4 - 5 years (pre-schoolers)

7. What do I need to bring when I place my child in occasional care?

Bring nothing but a change of clothes for your child! Our Centre provides everything else – all food and drinks, bedding, sunscreen, hats and nappies. If your baby is still on formula, you will need to provide named bottles and formula, not made up.

8. What other services do you offer?

- Long daycare for children aged 0 – 6 years
- MELC Prep Program
- Occasional care for all ages
- Before and after school care
- Vacation care for primary school children

9. Can I come and see your service?

Please do. We really encourage parents to come and visit our fabulous facilities to get the real feel for what we are about.

10. What should I do next?

The next step would be to complete and return the Registration for Occasional Care Form. Once we have all of your details on file, it makes it much easier to book into the Centre, particularly on short notice. Even if you're not planning to use our service straight away, it's a good idea to register.