

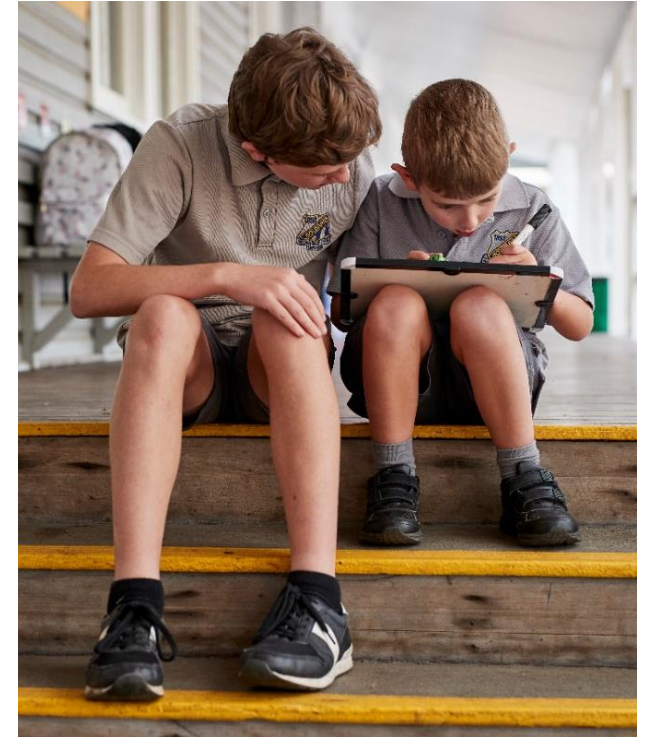
# Transition to Outside School Hours Care (OSHC)

Another important transition to consider for many new starters to school is also the transition to OSHC.

On average, approximately 10% of all Kindergarten school starters also commence attendance in an OSHC service. In some cases, this can be up to 20% or higher which is one in 5 new Kindergarten children.

## Changes children might experience when starting OSHC

- New environments in the school such as the OSHC room, toilets and playground areas
- Transport to and from the OSHC service
- Various ages mixing together – OSHC caters for years K-6
- Large groups of children attending OSHC
- A new routine
- Greater flexibility and independence through structured and unstructured play options
- Meeting new educators and making new friends
- Managing emotions and navigating play
- Learning about the OSHC rules
- Longer hours if attending Before School Care, school and then After School Care



## How can ECE services and OSHC services work together to support this transition?

- ECE services could consider a visit to their local OSHC on an excursion over a period of time with the Kindy starters from that school so they can become acquainted with the educators and environment. During COVID-19 restrictions, these connections could be conducted via virtual platforms for a 'meet and greet' with the OSHC educators and a virtual tour.
- ECE services could join their local OSHC for an afternoon tea where the OSHC children run the event. Consider establishing the use of a buddy system between older children and new starters during these visits or virtual connections so new children have a trusted familiar face.
- Many OSHC services have a Children's Orientation Manual which is made by the OSHC children where they write about things they think new children should know and take photos of the environment and experiences. Having a copy of this at the ECE service for children to become familiar with will help them understand some of the changes ahead. Some OSHC services also have videos available of what a day at OSHC looks like which could be played for preschoolers at their ECE service.
- ECE services can share the Transition to School Statement with the child's new OSHC service with parental consent, or encourage the children's parent/carer to do so.
- Teach social skills to new starters such as how to introduce yourself or how to ask to join in play so children have confidence to approach peers when they get to OSHC.
- Provide preschool age children with opportunities to take on additional responsibilities such as serving afternoon tea or helping to run an activity to encourage new skills and build confidence for when they join the OSHC.

