Welcome to Only About Children

You are beginning the wonderful journey into early learning for your child. We hope to help make it a fantastic and rewarding experience.

Only About Children (or Oac – pronounced Oak – as we’ve called ourselves) is Australia’s leading early learning and preschool/kindergarten provider for 0-6 year olds.

This is no ordinary childcare or preschool. Oac embraces a holistic 21st century approach to high quality early learning, focused on early years education, health and wellbeing in state of the art, purpose-built campuses.

Qualified and passionate Educators lead our dedicated teams from newborn care through to school readiness programs, so your child can receive continuity of care in an early learning environment where they feel safe, nurtured, stimulated and happy.

Our focus is on innovation, child development and passion for learning. I would like to extend a warm welcome to you, as your family becomes part of the Oac community.

Brendan McAssey, CEO
Why choose Oac?

There are so many factors that come into play when choosing your child’s early learning provider. It’s one of the most important decisions you’ll make, as we now know how critical the first six years are to a child’s development.

From 0-6, a child’s brain develops more than at any other time in their life! Every experience, every sight, sound, touch, smell and taste, stimulates their brain and lays down a lifelong foundation for learning, health and behaviour.

Why our families love Only About Children

Our offering is fee inclusive of:

• Oac Grow, our own unique educational curriculum with a dedicated preschool/kindergarten program

• A dedicated Oac Health Team encompassing specialist support in Occupational Therapy, Speech, Hearing and Vision

• Oac Active Program designed by a qualified Sports Science Physiologist

• Oac Nutrition Program designed by one of Australia’s leading Nutritionists

• The Oac campus and environment is designed specifically to meet the development of children in each age group

• Formula, bottles, sippy cups, nappies and cot linen are provided

• Daily communication with families via our own innovative and customised app, Oac CONNECT
The Oac Mission
To encourage every child to reach his or her full potential.

The Oac Vision
To be the world’s leading early years learning provider.
The Oac Way
A new approach in educational and developmental thinking

At Only About Children we are dedicated to delivering inspired, world class early years education. To achieve this, we’ve developed an early learning model designed to encourage every child to reach their full potential in life.

We call it the Oac Way.
It’s a unique, 21st century approach to childcare that goes beyond education to encompass the health and total wellbeing of every child in our care, offering exclusive services in these areas. The Oac Way has 3 key areas which work together, holistically, to achieve outstanding results for children – people, products and partnerships.

People
Our Educators are our greatest strength and work with us because they desire a career in early childhood education, not just a job.

Products & Services
Oac has created innovative custom environments for children to safely play and learn. Together with our Oac Grow curriculum, Oac Health services, Oac Nutrition and Oac Active programs, we’ve created a world-leading offering designed to give children the best possible preparation for life.

Partnerships with parents & community
Strong partnerships with families and communities are key to the Oac Way. We believe in the proverb, ‘it takes a village to raise a child’ and through active, two way relationships with families it means we can understand and meet every child and family’s unique needs more fully.
“The Oac Way is more than a philosophy, it’s an approach to childcare based on the latest educational thinking and developmental research, harnessing the many advances at our fingertips in the 21st century. The Oac Way is our way of ensuring all children reach their full potential in life.”
Oac People

An educational career

Qualified, professional, respectful, caring... we look for these traits and more in our people. We don’t think that’s too much to ask for. After all, the care and guidance of your children is so important.

We seek out passionate people who are looking for a career, not simply a job. This means you’ll see more focus, experience, commitment and energy being shown to your children. Within every Oac campus are degree qualified early childhood Teachers.

Attracting and retaining high quality Educators is a key part of the Oac Way because building long lasting relationships with your child and family are vital. To do this, we inspire, reward and support our team in a range of ways. Firstly, we invest in their future by providing an expanded professional practice program, to increase their knowledge of our educational curriculum, Oac Grow, and childhood health and development program, Oac Health.

We also offer a cutting edge leadership development program and study assistance to ensure continual learning and upskilling. We encourage activities that increase team cohesion to help create an engaging work environment.

Having fulfilled, happy Educators and support staff at Oac with access to the latest resources, infrastructure, training courses and programs delivers enormous benefits to your child’s early learning experiences.
“It’s in Oac’s DNA to challenge convention and support creativity. With our people, we felt there was an opportunity to be at the cutting edge of everything we do. We attract the best people by investing in the latest technology and teaching methods available within the early childhood education sector.”
At Only About Children, we’re committed to providing the very best early childhood education, development and care to children aged 0-6 years within our modern, custom-designed campuses.

As part of the Oac Way, we’ve created an innovative world class product and service offering, encompassing education, health, nutrition and physical development.

**Oac Products & Services**

Encouraging every child to reach their full potential

- **Oac Campuses**: Modern, safe, purpose-built, focus on technology and nature
- **Oac Education**: Oac Grow – our unique educational curriculum for 0-6 years
- **Oac Health**: Exclusive services to support children’s health and wellbeing
- **Oac Nutrition**: Outstanding focus on the nutritional needs of growing bodies
- **Oac Active**: A program to support early physical development and wellbeing

Oac fees are inclusive of all products and services.
Oac Education

Our inspired educational curriculum – Oac Grow

We want children at Oac to be stimulated and given the best opportunity possible to develop their growing minds.

Oac Grow is our unique educational curriculum that forms the basis for essential early education and development. This curriculum has been developed so that every child has the opportunity to embark on a wonderful early learning journey and achieve his or her potential.

**Oac Grow is an innovative play-based curriculum that differs to other early education programs by delivering intentional teaching in dynamic small group learning environments where children’s successes, skills and challenges are monitored on an ongoing basis.**

Oac Grow calls on international best practice and is guided by the Australian Early Years Learning Framework.

Educators use Oac Grow to support each child by identifying their unique strengths, emerging skills and challenges at each stage in their early childhood journey. In short, your child will thrive with our Oac Grow curriculum. Curriculum principles include:

- Language, literacy and communication
- Physical development, health and wellbeing
- Numeracy and problem solving
- Creative Arts
- Science and technology
- Social competency
- Sustainability and caring for our planet

These principles are delivered through a combination of structured and spontaneous play-based learning opportunities that consider each child’s strengths, interests and next steps.
“Through Oac Grow, we address all areas of your child’s development - physical, cognitive, emotional and social. The program offers experiences that are appropriate to every child’s unique stage of development, therefore promoting positive learning outcomes for all children.”
Inspiring them further...

A child’s thirst for knowledge and stimulation at this stage of life is phenomenal, so within our Oac Grow curriculum, we incorporate a range of experiences that enrich your child’s learning.

These include:
• Music classes
• Second language classes
• Technology integration

Igniting a passion for music
Children love exploring music through song, dance, play, movement and active listening, so we include weekly music sessions in our Oac Grow curriculum. Research shows that music enhances a child’s learning capacity, and assists with early motor skill development, group dynamics, socialisation, rhythm and speech.

A love of language
Your child’s brain is primed for language learning during the first few years of life. Oac Grow offers a fun, weekly play-based program introducing your little ones to French, Spanish and Italian in an exciting way. C’est magnifique.

High tech, high fun
Today’s children are living with a range of devices in their everyday lives. Research shows that intentional and developmentally appropriate use of technology can support and enhance learning and development. We integrate technology such as iPads purposefully and appropriately to support the learning experiences at Oac.
Supporting your child’s development

As part of the Oac Way, we offer a holistic approach to your child’s development, which means we encompass not just the education, but the physical health and emotional wellbeing of every child in our care.

This innovative program offers allied health specialist support in areas such as Occupational Therapy, Speech Pathology, Hearing and Vision. Comprehensive advice and recommendations are provided, which helps support quality educational outcomes for all children.

These exclusive Oac Health services are all included as part of your daily fee.

**Occupational Therapy**
OT enhances a child’s performance in everyday, age appropriate experiences. A child’s ‘occupation’ includes playing, learning, socialising and the role of being a child. Oac Occupational Therapists can assist children with:

- Achieving developmental milestones
- Participating in everyday activities including mealtimes, toileting and dressing
- Enhancing sensory processing skills for learning and development, including sensory sensitivities and motor planning
- Developing age appropriate fine and gross motor skills
- Developing play skills and forming secure relationships with peers and adults
- A medical or developmental diagnosis that impacts on their development and skill acquisition

**Oac screenings identified possible impairments – 16% visual, 21% hearing, 13% speech** *(2014/2015 screenings)*
One in four children have a vision problem which may affect their ability to concentrate and understand in the classroom, so it’s important to get your child’s vision checked before they start school.

While most vision screens look only at how clearly a child can see at distance, we work with specialists to provide a more comprehensive suite of vision tests which includes assessments of:

- Anterior eye health
- Visual acuity
- Eye movements
- Binocular vision (two eyes working together as a team)

Our Oac Vision Specialists currently screen all 2 and 4 year old children, and results are provided to each family via the Campus Director.

Speech Pathology
Our Speech Pathologists support children to develop age appropriate speech sounds and increase their understanding and use of language. Our speech and language offering includes screening, by request, for all children from 2 years.

We offer support in:

- Early language development
- Speech sound delays/disorders
- Language delays/disorders
- Stuttering
- Feeding/swallowing disorders

A focus on health and wellbeing
Sometimes children require additional support with their health and development. You might want to check your child’s hearing levels or determine if a vision problem exists. You may be curious about the development of speech and language skills.

**Hearing**
Throughout a child’s life, factors can arise that may impact their ability to hear. For example, a cold or ear infection may come and go but leave a residual blockage in the middle ear resulting in a mild or even moderate hearing loss. Although often temporary, such a hearing loss can remain undetected for several months.

In that time your child hears the world differently. Speech will be softer, and the important cues in speech may be unperceivable to them. This can directly impact a child’s ability to develop speech and language skills simply because they cannot hear it normally. It can also have a significant impact on their ability to interact, enjoy and learn from the world around them.

The aim of the hearing and balance screening performed throughout Oac campuses is to identify hearing levels, the health of the ear drum and middle ear system as well as identify children with hearing loss or Otitis Media (‘Glue Ear’ or middle ear infection).

We currently screen children once between the ages of 3 and 5 and this determines if your child’s hearing threshold is within a normal range. Recommendations will then be made if hearing concerns are identified.
In addition to our fee inclusive Oac Health offering, this private clinic of allied health professionals provides further assessment, reporting, therapy, ready for school groups and support in the key areas of Speech Pathology and Occupational Therapy.

A specialist team provides Oac families with thorough and holistic insights, advice and therapy to support the development of your child and give them the best possible start to life.

The Oac Health Private clinic is available exclusively to families and children enrolled at Oac. Clinic services are eligible through Medicare, Hicaps, Helping Children with Autism and Better Start for Children with Disability.

Our first Oac Health Private clinic is based on Sydney’s lower north shore. We also offer the convenience of a mobile service where sessions are conducted at the child’s campus.
Oac Nutrition
Helping little minds and bodies grow

We passionately believe that good nutrition plays a vital role in children’s physical and mental development in early childhood.

At Oac, we started with the simple premise, that children aren’t small adults, so their nutrition needs are different. Rapid growth means energy needs for their size are high.

The best possible nutritional start to life
Most children form lifelong eating patterns by the time they reach school age, so it’s a huge responsibility for Oac to guide children towards sound food habits which will help them to maintain good health in the long term.

At Oac, we have engaged an accredited and renowned Nutritionist, to create mindful and nutritious menus for all campuses, as well as provide holistic health advice to Oac Educators, children and their families throughout the year via seminars and talks.

The Oac Nutrition program includes a 4 week rotating seasonal menu that meets children's needs, taking into account nutritional and energy requirements as well as cultural and health needs.

Each Oac campus has their own cook who works in a modern on-site state of the art kitchen to freshly prepare daily all of the children's delicious meals.

Sample Menu

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BREAKFAST</strong></td>
<td>Seasonal fresh fruit and an assortment of cereals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MORNING TEA</strong></td>
<td>Coconut, peach and pear crumble with natural yoghurt and seasonal fruit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **LUNCH**      | Iron-rich lamb shepherd’s pie, served with mash potato and roasted vegetables  
                 | V: Iron-rich mushroom and green pea risotto served with steamed greens     |
| **AFTERNOON TEA**| Pita bread and seasonal fresh vegetable sticks served with a selection of homemade dips |
| **LATE SNACK** | Seasonal fruit with cheese and rice crackers          |
Oac Active
Let’s get physical

The Oac Way is about ensuring the holistic wellbeing of the children in our care. So we’ve developed Oac Active as part of our weekly offering, because physical confidence is important to a child’s self-esteem and capacity for development.

We’re very proud of this exclusive program. Oac Active is designed by a qualified Sports Science Physiologist in consultation with the Oac Health Team to help children learn important gross motor skills. Gross Motor Development is a fundamental base skill to many areas of learning.

This program also leads to improvements in strength, endurance, flexibility, balance and co-ordination in a fun, inclusive environment.

**Oac Active introduces children to the concepts of:**
- Wellbeing
- Developing confidence in their own bodies and improving self esteem
- Improving gross motor skills
- Enjoying physical activity

The program involves two weekly sessions over the course of 30 weeks. With each session, there are ways to make the session easier or harder to ensure that all children can participate and most importantly, they’re having fun.
At Oac, our values are communicated through our environment, so with our purpose-built campuses, we aim to dazzle children's senses, invite curiosity and discovery, and teach children to respect and appreciate the space around them.

Our learning environments are purposely designed to support our curriculum as well as provide for children's individual learning styles, strengths and interests. Children learn readily from their environments, developing key skills such as self regulation, autonomy and independence.

Our focus is to bring natural elements into our campuses and we place great emphasis on the design and resourcing of our classrooms.

The safety of your child is paramount. We use keypad security access, safety gates, shaded play areas and well maintained buildings and resources to provide a safe environment for your child.

Oac Educators make sustainable practices a part of the daily routine. Sustainability through interactive learning elements might include a vegetable and herb garden, compost or worm farm systems. Other regular sustainable practices include:

- Recycling
- Gardening
- Water conservation
- Making natural choices for play materials
- Exploring the natural world
At Oac, we pride ourselves on fostering and sustaining respectful and pro-active partnerships with our families. We believe it makes a tremendous difference to how well a child flourishes, knowing they are in a nurturing circle of families, Educators and community members.

In this fast paced world and with so many busy working families, we provide an environment that replicates a “village” dynamic. We care about getting to know your family and celebrate what makes you unique. We promote family involvement within our campuses through our open door policy, family events and participation in our programs.

Campuses hold regular social events where you’ll meet other families and enjoy celebrations with your children. Events include morning and afternoon teas, art exhibitions, BBQs and other important calendar events.

Oac recognises the importance of valuing not only our families, but also the community as a whole. We feel a sense of belonging to our local community.

We encourage our team to participate passionately with the community around them, either through excursions or incursions.

“As well as People and Products, the third unique strength of the Oac Way is Partnerships … partnerships with families, and partnerships with local communities.”
The Oac Family Relations Team
Because we want our Campus Directors focusing on your child and their education, we offer a dedicated off-site team to manage all of your administration requirements. Their sole purpose is to provide you with the most up to date, efficient and professional advice and service.

The Family Relations Team are always available so that families have one point of contact for any questions that they may have.

The Oac CONNECT customised app
Oac's customised app is a wonderful resource to keep families across their child's learning and development throughout the day and is linked directly to our Oac Grow learning outcomes.

Oac CONNECT delivers progress directly to your smartphone or web portal via:
• A daily diary with photos and videos
• A weekly campus newsletter
• A monthly individual report called a GROW Story
• Regular campus updates and community news
• Oac Extra days outside of your child’s regular enrolment can also be booked with instant confirmation via the app

Parenting Workshops and Content Sharing
Our exclusive Parenting Workshops bring the community’s leading early childhood experts together to engage, inspire and empower parents. They are hosted across our Sydney and Melbourne campuses, and are free and open to enrolled families and the broader community.
Joining the Oac Community
Enrolling at Only About Children

Waitlisting... the first step of the journey
If you like the sound of the Oac Way, and you’d like your child’s early learning experience to be with us, we’d be thrilled to have you join us.

It’s never too early to put your child on the Oac waitlist. At any time you can visit our website and register your child’s details. You can enter your target start date, your preferred days and register for up to three campuses.

Once on our waitlist, you will receive regular updates from our Family Relations Team with information about availability, booking tours, open days and other relevant campus information.

Tour our campus and meet the team
We encourage families to come for a campus tour, meet our Educators and ask us any questions they like. It’s the perfect way to showcase our learning environments, talk about the Oac Way in more detail and reassure you that your child will always be in safe hands with us.

Campus locations
For a full list of our campus locations visit oac.edu.au

Request an Enrolment Pack
Why not phone our team on T: 02 8968 1500 and request an Enrolment Pack for your child? Alternatively, visit oac.edu.au.