

WHAT IS “MOUNTAIN MATES”?

“Mountain Mates” is a licensed Outside School Hours Care service that provides a safe and caring environment for your children. We offer a National Quality Accredited Outside School Hours Care Service run by qualified staff.

WHERE IS “MOUNTAIN MATES” held?

Mountain Mates is based in the Beechmont State School grounds in the house on the hill. We offer a great opportunity for your children to be cared for without leaving the immediate facilities of the school. They are in a homely environment where they can relax and enjoy different activities and programs designed to cater for their individual and group needs as identified in the National Quality Framework.

During the summer months we enjoy the beautiful outdoors as much as possible (adhering to sun safe practices), retiring later in the day to the house where a quiet and creative atmosphere is offered to the children. During the winter months we have the comfort of a heated home and access to a large range of indoor activities such as board games, books, creative arts and crafts, computers, dress up clothes, dolls, home corner, television, DVD and Wii console.

Who can use MOUNTAIN MATES?

All children from PREP to Year 7 are eligible, whether they attend Beechmont State School or not, as long as they are enrolled in a school. (We are also able to obtain permission to include high school students in our service.)

What TIMES are we open?

Our After School Care Service is open from 3pm until 6.30pm Monday to Friday. Our Before School Care Service is open from 6.30am until 8.30am Monday to Friday and our Vacation Care Program operates from 7am until 6.30pm Monday to Friday. Mountain Mates operates on Pupil Free Days but not on Public holidays.

How much will it COST to send my child?

Fees start from as little as \$1 per afternoon in After & Before School Care and even less in Vacation Care depending on your circumstances. With no childcare benefit (CCB) our full fees in After School Care are only \$19 (permanent bookings) or \$22 (casual bookings). Before School Care is \$12 (permanent booking) and \$14 (casual booking) including a wholesome breakfast. Vacation Care is \$44 for a full day and \$29 for half days. All families utilising the service are entitled to CCB plus can get 50% out of pocket costs back.

Information is available from the service or your local Family Assistance Office. Child Care Benefits cannot be offered until your enrolment form is fully completed and electronically submitted by the service to the Childcare Management System (CCMS). If your child is collected after 6.30pm, a late fee will apply for every 5 minutes until collected. This late fee is not subsidised by Child Care Benefits.

Will my child need EXTRA FOOD?

No extra food is required in After School Care as our service provides a variety of fresh, healthy food options for each child shortly after school finishes. Before School Care’s breakfast is fully catered for and we provide afternoon tea and our cooking for the day in Vacation Care. Our emphasis in our service is on healthy, nutritious food. We use natural juices, a variety of breads and as many products as possible without preservatives or other additives. We also cater for children who have special dietary needs.



What will my children be DOING?

After the children have met our Staff and been marked off the roll at the meeting area outside the Green Room, they spend a short time playing until the buses have left the school. We then serve afternoon tea. The children have a choice of programmed activities, which are advertised each school term. Children are offered the chance to learn a new range of skills with qualified, experienced Coordinators, covering activities like art, cooking, sport and craft. We are also part of the Active After School Care Community and have access to qualified coaches to teach the children a new sport or skill in a fun and inclusive environment. These programs are reviewed and changed on a term basis. For those who do not wish to take part in the organised activities, a wide range of alternatives are available to suit their needs, whether this be quiet colouring or playing freely in the playground under supervision.

By 5.30pm we are generally tidying up and organizing children in the “Homework Club”, playing board games, reading, watching a movie or using computers. Please be aware we limit electronic equipment usage unless we believe conditions be appropriate.



MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

The Outside School Hours Care Service is run with the support and dedication of the Beechmont State School P&C Association as our Licensing Body.

PARENT & COMMUNITY Involvement and Information

Parents are encouraged to participate in the service in a variety of ways. The service's philosophy and operational policy manual which complies with the recommended guidelines from the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority, is freely available to all parents of children using the service to view and have input. Alternatively, parent's may contact the Office for Early Childhood, Education and Care, Department of Education and Training on 1800 637711.

Parents are encouraged to ask the Service Co-ordinator for information in relation to your child's enrolment, experiences and activities, also the service philosophy, National Quality Standards, about learning and child development outcomes and how they will be achieved, as well as goals about knowledge and skills to be developed through activities and experiences. Concerns relating to the service can be made to the nominated service Supervisor, the P&C Executive or the above contacts.



Mountain Mates PHILOSOPHY

We aim to provide an environment in which children's physical, emotional and social needs are met in a safe, caring and supportive environment. The best interests of the child are of paramount concern. We provide care in a way that protects the child from harm, respects the child's dignity and privacy, and promotes the child's well being. We help our children learn through positive experiences and foster personal responsibility. Family involvement is also important; we encourage a harmonious relationship between all people involved in the care of our children. Guiding children through life with support helps them



develop into individuals who value others as well as themselves. We believe our children have the right to be happy, the right to be safe, the right to hear and be heard, and the right to learn about themselves.

Mountain Mates GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The children and their well-being, health and safety are the main focus of our service and are to be treated at all times with respect and dignity as unique and valued individuals.

How can we be CONTACTED?

Service Number: 55459124

School Office: 55459100 Fax: 55459199

email: mountainmates@bigpond.com

Mobile: 0417 775 741 (Kim Sami's)

How can I ENROL my child?

Obtain an enrolment form from either the school office; download it from the Beechmont State School Website or from Mountain Mates. Complete the required information and return to either the school office, our email address or to the Service. Our Vacation Care Service is advertised with a full program and costs prior to all school holidays through the school Newsletter, email and the Beechmont State School Website (P&C Link). For Before & After School Care you may book your child in on permanent days each week or you may use the service as the need arises. Contact us via email or phone the school office to book your child in. Every afternoon our staff cross check the school bus rolls to ensure your children are where they should be.



WELCOME TO MOUNTAIN MATES

**Your Beechmont State
School P&C Association**

OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE SERVICE

