

Happy Haven

Happy School Communities



Tania's Story

It is just a few days over a year now that my son Oliver came to be at Happy haven OSHC at the Pines and so I felt that it was way over due that I formally put pen to paper and expressed how awesome I think the place and all the staff are.

Firstly a bit of background on 'OLLIE' as most people affectionately call him. Ollie was born in 2007 as a 5 week Premi baby. Right from the start he had problems and as the years continue not too much has changed. Now that he is almost 9 he still needs help toileting, with his Communication, integration with the kids and particularly with his feeding. His overall assessment is that he is Autistic and globally developmentally delayed. He also is PEG Fed. If you are not sure about that just ask your kids, they have seen him being fed by his stomach tube.

He used to attend another OSHC that he loved and he was very well cared for but unfortunately with a takeover of ownership, they just didn't want a kid like Oliver around anymore. So after a week's notice I found myself at a wits end as where to send him. As a single mum working full time I really needed somewhere for him to go.

I tried at least 6 different OSHC centers. I had excuses like "not toilet trained," "cant do peg feeds, not experienced in Special Needs"....any excuse under the sun. I cried everyday...No one outwardly admitted they didn't want an Autistic Child with Special needs but.....

Then something wonderful happened. I was given the name of Happy Haven and with a great reference from a special needs co-coordinator, I called immediately. I got to speak to Nick Smith and right from the get go, as soon as I gave him the spiel regarding Ollie, he immediately said "when would you like him to start". I couldn't believe it. No excuses, no fobbing me politely off. I'd never met the guy but I would have hugged him through the phone that day.

The team from the directors to the Carers couldn't be more fantastic if they tried. I adore all of them. The level of care provided is beyond exceptional, they are caring, patient and most of all very friendly each one has taken the time to learn how to Peg feed Ollie, learn his individual language and behavior. He has developed in so many ways, demonstrating new skills and talents in all areas of his learning. His speech has improved out of sight; his willingness to participate in activities is amazing and surprising to me.

Ollie's Autism means he has wonderful days and then some not so well behaved days. The kids have been so tolerant of him and the quirks that come with him being an Autistic Child .He never stops asking to go to OSHC from the moment he wakes, even the weekends. It's not easy leaving your child at childcare, but the team at Happy Haven makes it easy. Despite the pit at the bottom of my stomach each day, I have a great sense of relief knowing That Ollie is 100% well cared for at all times and because of this, so am I. For me, this is s priceless and I am forever really grateful to have found such a center. 5 stars all the way

- Tania, Happy Haven parent