

Regional OSCAR Awards 2006 Individual Award Winner



Bridget Royce

What is your job title?

Area Supervisor of 3 OSCAR Programmes and 1 Holiday Programme

What is the name of your OSCAR Programme?

"OSCAR House" (this incorporates OSCAR House – Lower Hutt, OSCAR House – Kelson School, OSCAR House Korokoro School and OSCAR House Kids Kingdom Holiday Programme).

How long have you worked in OSCAR?

9 years, 8 years at my current programme.



Give a brief description of a typical day at your OSCAR programme?

Are any days working in an OSCAR Programme typical? In a basic form my day involves:

Mornings 7:30 – 8:30

- Breakfast, I provide and oversee activities, administrative duties including new enrolments, fees, policy manual updates, Winz liaison, notice preparations etc

Afternoons 2.00-6.00 and beyond!!!

- Prep- afternoon tea, clear telephone messages from parents. Prepare activities and organise staff.
- Ensure all expected children arrive - usually 60-70 children
- Greet children & time for a quick chat
- Monitor and assist homework/reading
- Initiate the days activities e.g. group games/drama/sport & arts/crafts, based on the programme plan I established at the beginning of term.
- Wind down activities drawing and Board games, computer, pool
- Through out the day develop a safe, happy and welcoming atmosphere.
- Encourage children's social development in areas such as consideration of others, patience, promoting respect and supporting the children in conflict resolution.
- Feed back and support for staff, programme review, providing staff training & development
- Greet parents discussing the events and activities their child has been engaged in, Farewell children and parents.
- Liaise with our other programme supervisors around any day to day issues.

What do you feel your greatest achievement has been for OSCAR?

I think my greatest achievement is our programmes' development; we started in 1998 with a small group of kids, 2 staff, minimal equipment and a whole lot of enthusiasm. 8 years later we have grown, we operate three programmes' with a combined role 149 children 15 staff, an amazing variety of equipment, and still plenty of enthusiasm. Although we have grown I still value close relationships with children and parents.

Why do you love coming to work each day?

Why do I love working at OSCAR? Simply because its fun!

I work with some amazing people, I think it takes a certain kind of person to work in OSCAR and the people I work with are the best. I love the arty/crafty/creative activities that I get to explore with the children, although occasionally

not all goes to plan, the end result is always worth the effort. Especially when you see a child proudly show their parent what they've accomplished OSCAR is never boring; no day is ever the same. One minute you're playing sport next you're up to your elbows in a messy art activity, or chilling with a few kids playing a board game. 5 minutes later you're sliding down the water slide!

OSCAR is such an awesome environment, you get the opportunity to see children at their best, their most creative, adventurous, confident and dynamic selves.

Over the years I have grown and developed along with our programme, its become a part of me and you know you're here for good, when you have to take a day off and all you can think is what am I missing out on.

When things aren't going well I get to work and everything's fine. Children have this fabulous ability to make you forget about yourself or perhaps it's all the organised chaos; it doesn't give you much time to think. Either way when I leave work I can't help smiling thinking about something that has happened.

