

Regional OSCAR Awards 2006

Programme Award Winner

Under 50 Children



Devonport Community House Out of School Care

How many children attend your programme?

In both our After School Care and Holiday Programmes we accept up to 40 children per day and have had this many at various times.

After School Care has 84 children on our roll, and during the last holiday programme (Oct/Nov 06) we had 105 children attend during the two weeks.

How many staff do you have?

We usually have four adult staff each day at After School Care.

We have one Co-ordinator for both the After School Care and Holiday Programme: Kay Nicolson. We have 5 Facilitators: Dave Burrows, Janet Barry, Jill Barry, Berwyn Hartley and Dawne Pearce.

We have 8 Youth Assistants: Alice Blair, Rebecca Churchill, Jamie Francis, Lydia Lyell, Hannah Scott, Lauren Strain, Alisha Ward and Wayne Wing Ho Sui.



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

1.30 pm - Kay finalises bookings for the day, makes a list for Dave of children to be collected from the schools in the Van and another list of those to be collected and walked down from Devonport School. Kay also purchases and begins to prepare afternoon tea.

2.45pm - Berwyn (Be) arrives and sets up her art activity in the upstairs art room. Dave, Kay and Janet leave to collect children from Devonport, St Leos, Stanley Bay and Vauxhall Schools.

3.00pm - Be finishes off afternoon tea, cutting up apples etc.

3.10pm - Dave drops off first van load of children. They hang up their bags, wash their hands and line up for afternoon tea, they all have a story for Be – today they are talking about our Christmas tree and the Santa Parade on Sunday. What's to eat? What are we doing today? It's a lovely afternoon so afternoon tea is outside in the courtyard area – today it is a choice of pink iced buns or toasted cheese on rolls and the fruit is apples, oranges and kiwi fruit. Jugs of water and glasses are set out.

3.25pm - Janet and Kay and the Devonport School children arrive. Typically Kay and Janet are carrying about 7 school bags!!!

3.30pm - Dave arrives with the second van load of children. Now it is busy and noisy and chaotic, everyone wants to tell Kay something, everyone is calling out and want to know what's to eat? Did you see that on TV? Are we doing this today? Are we doing that? A group of girls are singing "I know a song that gets on everybody's nerves..." Yes, it's working! Chaos reigns until everyone has had afternoon tea and the activities begin.

Today's activities are;

Art: Upstairs in the art room the kids and Be are making more Christmas decorations for our tree and putting the finishing touches to picture frames which the children have been creating to carry in our local Christmas Parade where they will be "Walking Portraits".

Dave is outside with another group, playing ball sports.

Janet is in the hall with another group building huts, with trestles and blankets etc.

Kay is roving between the groups, answering questions, settling disputes, listening to stories and keeping an eye on the children in the mezzanine who are reading, doing Lego, and playing board games.

Between 4.30 and 6pm parents arrive to collect children.

Why do children love coming to your programme?

- "I like to play hockey with Dave" from Katie.
- "I like the stuff I get to play with" from Tim L.
- "I like the food and the friendly staff" from Ruby.
- "I like sport, games and friends" from Tim D.
- "I like doing art upstairs and playing hockey" from Keegan.



Why should your programme become The OSCAR Foundation National Award winner?

In 2005 Devonport Community House formed an Out of School Care sub-committee with members from the staff, management committee and parents. We needed to know if we were really meeting the needs of the community.

Families were surveyed to gauge satisfaction and suggest improvements. The feedback was positive but we did identify some areas where we could be more effective.

An increase in our Ministry of Social Development Funding allowed the opportunity to employ more staff, as our team had identified that staff were the most important resource we could provide for our children. More staff has enabled us to spend more time with the children to really get to know them, to care about them, as well as for them. It has also allowed us to utilise more areas of the Community House.

Working alongside our excellent adult staff are our fabulous youth assistants who have created a great rapport with the children. Children really bond with these teenagers and they bring a different dynamic to our programmes.

A grant was received from The Fletcher Trust to implement a reading library and \$1000 of new books were purchased. We have also increased spending on art supplies, sports equipment and games.

We are now satisfied that our programme follows sound policies and procedures and is successfully meeting the need of Devonport families. Our children enjoy coming to us, they have fun and varied activities every day.

We have an OSCAR Programme we are proud of and so we entered the "Oscar Awards". We are absolutely thrilled to have won "Best programme (under 50 children) in the Auckland Region."