



Family OSCAR Award Regional Winner - Profile The Lighthouse O.S.C.A.R.

How many children attend your programme?

Average of 20 before school and 70 after school daily. We average 80 in the holidays.

How many staff do you have?

6 full time paid employees, 2x 20 hour week paid employees, 1 volunteer driver, 3 relief staff/Volunteers, 1 part time grounds and maintenance worker

What does a typical day at your OSCAR programme look like?

7.00am Lighthouse opens. Gene makes complimentary coffees, remembering how the parents like it. Its breakfast and free play time, children settle in on the lounge suites by the fire to watch their favorite Nick Toon. It is fairly typical of a normal household in the morning just a lot more children!

8.30am A blessing for the children is said by Shelley and the vans leave.

9-11am Shelley & Gene work on administration for the programme with phones ring and text's come in from parent's .

11-2pm Staff arrive and begin daily set up and safety tasks.. Any last minute changes are made to pick ups (It's good that our pick up sheets are laminated).

2.15pm Staff meeting & five vans leave.

The Lighthouse Family Arrives! The children are greeted at the door by Shelley and 2 year old Elizabeth and asked how their day was, its afternoon tea straight away! In the lounge area on PowerPoint they can see "What's on for the day". Its free play time, pool, soccer tables, board games, leggo, little pet shops, listening post, reading, crafts, a giant chess set, and coloring in. Outside options scooters, skate boards, trampoline, or adventure playground, loads of noise and laughter
4pm We all gather together. A red plate award is given for outstanding behavior
A prayer is said by one of the children and the activity choices for the day are outlined .

4-5pm Structured activities are pre planned for the term based on a theme and in consultation with the children, and include Crafts, Sports, Go Kids activities, homework club, fort building, hobo stove cooking, rides on our Go carts and beach buggies, organic gardening, recycling, cooking skills, dance and drama. In summer we have a giant water slide, trips to local parks and the beach. Children are also run to their extra curricular activities with one van/staff member designated for this.

5-6.30 pm Chill out time. Staff greet the parents, help them locate their child, and to generally catch up with them on how there family is, and what their child has been doing that day. Parents often hang out and play a quick game of pool or table soccer or view their child in action on the flat screen.

6.30pm The doors are shut and the Lighthouse O.S.C.A.R turns into the home for the Tomlinson family of seven to begin their night.

Please provide 5 quotes from parents on how they feel included/welcomed in to your programme?

"Absolutely wonderful! Staff are all very caring, friendly and helpful. It's like a second home for my children." (Sandra Haftka)





"I work full-time, and I was very anxious about putting Alandra [daughter] in a daycare as she was only 5. Not only did the Lighthouse make Alandra's transition lovely, but I know she is in safe hands." (*Anxious free, Barabara Mason*)

"The staff are fantastic, friendly and helpful. The activities and holiday programmes are extremely well organised and enjoyable for the kids. I am really happy with the programme and my daughter raves about it!" (*Mrs Dyer*)

"One of my favourite things about the Lighthouse is how well the staff know me and my children. The best way to tell if my children feel welcome is when they ask in the morning "Do we get to go to the Lighthouse today?" The Lighthouse is a reward for our whole family. We are blessed to have such a wonderful programme and family service in our community!" (*Ann Marie Pike*)

The Lighthouse programme outreach to the whole family and community... The Lighthouse is the laughter in our hearts, when we see our children happy at the end of a work day." (*Debbie*)



Why should you become The OSCAR Foundation National Award winner?

Our mission statement, "we are here to serve the families on the Kapiti Coast," is our foundation since we first established the programme as a Christian Nonprofit charitable trust seven years ago. Our programme is run by Gene & Shelley, their five children, with support from Shelley's parents who all live on the property, making it a home like atmosphere!

We have a thorough orientation process developed from feedback. All new families view the programme and meet the staff member's who collect their child/ren. We run open evenings for new parents displaying crafts and other projects, and display photos taken of the children in action. This is a wonderful opportunity to welcome and get to know new families.

We work hard to let our families know what's going on with a "what's on" power point at the programme, notices, and photos in our entrance to provide vital information. The terms activities, menus and newsletters are posted on a noticeboard, a suggestion box is available for feedback, email is used to give updates and reminders to enrol children, with attached enrolment form/activities schedules (also posted on website). The most important form of communication with our parents occurs while picking up their child/children, staff members make a point of touching base with each parent as they sign out.

We support parent's way beyond basic child care requirements. We provide food parcels, presents at Christmas, pick up sick children from school and care for them until parents arrive. Occasionally we also assist with short term housing for our families and participate in "Strengthening families" & C.Y.F meetings. We run children to extra-curricular activities, have a homework club, open on teacher-only days and when schools close early, and teach our preteens basic cooking skills and to assist parents. We also arrange for our Work and Income Childcare Coordinator to come to the Lighthouse each term to meet our parents needs.

Parent's involvement/feedback is vital and allows us to achieve a high standard of care. The Lighthouse programme is thoroughly focused on children and families. Our homelike atmosphere sees older children encouraging and helping younger or less able children (tuakana/teina relationship) and this caring/sharing is what families and communities are about.

