



Best New Programme Award Regional Winner - Profile

Weka Presechool OSCAR Programme

How many children attend your programme?

We have approximately 12 per day at our before school programme, and approximately 20 per day at our after school programme.

How many staff do you have?

Weka has three permanent employees whom work in both facilities – the PreSchool and at OSCAR. Glenda our favourite Cook, catering for approximately 50 PreSchool attendees daily, still with energy, takes great delight in cooking with the OSCAR children as they prepare their afternoon tea or holiday programme feasts. Mellisa is a permanent reliever at Weka, and daily attends to the OSCAR children with a gentle but stimulating approach. Myself, Rochelle, the Owner Manager of Weka, trained and registered in both early childhood and OSCAR teaching, is the coordinator of the programmes and assists as required.

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

The staff head down to the programme facility at 2.30pm, allowing for one staff member to prepare the room for a fun filled afternoon – table top games, art explosions, cooking delights, to name a few. The other staff member ventures of to the School facilities to meet up with our OSCAR children whom finish up at 2.45pm. On all children's arrival, they head across the street to the neighboring school that finish at 3.00pm, having collected all the attendees, they venture back to the facility, which is an approximate 5 minute walk.

Upon arrival at OSCAR the children sign themselves in, on the attendance form and place their bag away. Winding down from School they venture into an activity of choice, whether in the hall, to let off steam with a ball or physical activity, or to relax in the lounge for a team game.

Ten minutes later the next group of children arrive who have come from a rural school, they too follow the same procedure as they relax into the afternoon.

By 3.30pm afternoon tea is prepared and a shared experience is had by all, when the children engage in light discussion while eating, sharing a reflection of their school day or weekend. On completion of afternoon tea, the children split into two groups for homework to be completed. One group goes through to the lounge area for shared reading and the other group stays in the dining area at the tables for spelling and worksheets, homework runs for approximately ½ an hour. We encourage the older children to support us through this process as they buddy up with the younger children to complete reading etc.

To finish the OSCAR day, they engage in many meaningful activities that's allows the children to follow an area of interest, having two staff with low ratios allows for productivity and opportunities for one on one support, some of the regular activities would be a team venturing into the hall for a variety of fun group activities or team sports, crafty experiences in the lounge, where the children can produce some fine art work, tapestry, bead creations, plaster of paris magnets, and for those children that arrive with a hole in their socks, take delight in having them darned while on their foot by our ever creative cook extraordinaire etc.

On pick-up informal discussion is had with parents informing them of homework





covered, and any other relevant information that relates to their child or, the programme.

Friday is a day of the week that is different to our typical days. The children have this as Friday FUN Day, NO Homework. They brainstorm areas of interest the previous week and vote for the activity that they would like to engage in the following week, i.e. Playstation, movies, ice cream shopping, a visit to the park, to name a few, this day is all about the group stepping out of the normal comfort zone – having total fun.

Please provide 5 children's quotes on why they love coming to your programme?

"I like going to OSCAR because you get to cook lots of yummy food and all the amazing activities we have to choose from, like velodrome riding, fun Fridays, skiing, play foam, sewing, touch rugby and many more. The OSCAR teachers are awesome; I went up three spelling levels last term because of their support." (*Joe, 10 years old*)

"I enjoy it because there are lots of activities to do and you learn fun new things." (*Quinn, 7 years old*)

"The creative activities that are offered I really love and all the games that we play." (*Georgia, 8 years old*)

The fun games and holiday things we get to do, but not the homework!" (*Dylan, 7 years old*)

"I love Oscar as we get to do all sorts of special activities that are really cool fun, and because you get to be with all your OSCAR friends." (*Annalisa, 7 years old*)

Why should you become The OSCAR Foundation National Award winner?

Weka OSCAR is all about the CHILD: - Curious Humans Involving Learning and Development. Weka at all times focuses on the child's interest areas, what do they want? What are they going to get out of it? Supporting the children through positive life experiences is a vital tool in ensuring we give opportunities to our community of learners. I facilitate this program as an extension of home, allowing the children to engage in experiences and, hopefully more of what they would be possibly doing while under the care of their parents, fun adventures that assures them fun shared memories and moments, but on these occasions it's with their OSCAR peers and teachers. Weka works on documenting these moments, allowing us to give reflection for the parents and the community to share in the essence of our experiences. Every term holiday we include the community into the programme as we venture out to enjoy the beauty it has to offer, nature plays a vital part in our programme, tramps into the bush, picking plums, bike trails, natural collage to name a few. During the school term we support the school sports, as we take our children along to touch rugby during the summer, hockey during the winter – this allows the children to feel a valued part of their school and within a team spirit, while still under the OSCAR programme. Overall we are keeping the brain active and alive, by offering adventurous experiences that ensures all ages are valued and made to feel they make a meaningful contribution to the Weka OSCAR Programme.

