



Youth Award Regional Winner - Profile

Karepa Wall

What is your job title?

Holiday Programme Supervisor.

Explain what a typical day at OSCAR is like for you?

Wake up and arrive at the Centre, greet all the wonderful enthusiastic children, smile and reassure the parents that we are having an awesome jam-packed full on day of activities.

Welcome and debrief my other adult help in what the day entails. Progress to finding a leader to call for the roll and account for who is and is not here and then follow up on who isn't and why they are not.

Ask children if they know what's happening today and initiate conversation with the children so they are not just being told, to have me tell them again hours later, this way they are telling me so they will remember and if they are wrong I'll correct them and then everyone knows.

I will then outline the days timetable (according to me, meaning that if the bus gets here at 10am I let them know the bus is here at 9.45, to this day 9.55 is the only time they have been early. If I told them 10am they would only be ready at 10.15am) then following this we prepare the children for the day. Togs, sunscreen, raincoat, water bottles or what ever fits the day.

A staff member will then run a small game for the ones who want to, whilst I and other staff mix and mingle with the children to ensure that all children are getting involved and are fitting in, are ready, are making friends, are happy etc. Follow day as planned. Ensuring the safety of staff and children is upheld.

Greet parents when they return and present them with the days activities explaining all the things that happened that were significant and let them know what we are doing the next day and that we look forward to seeing them the next day.

How long have you worked in OSCAR?

Approx 3 years (mixture of after school care, holiday programme, then another after school programme).

What do you feel your greatest achievement has been in OSCAR & Why should you become The OSCAR Foundation National Award winner?

Being involved with the OSCAR movement for many years, every night I go home I relax and prepare myself for the next day, but I must say when I am away from the movement for a short period of time, I really start getting "withdraw" symptoms and finding myself with the need to get back into it. Just seeing the children come everyday with huge smiles and a "kia ora Karepa".

When working in the area that I work in, a lot of children come from disadvantaged whānau, either poor whānau, single parent whānau, to whānau where the children lack certain aspects of their life. You know when this happens because when they start of pessimistic then come back everyday loving it! They go home raving about the fantastic day they had with you, about what an awesome time they are going to have tomorrow, never mind what the particular activity is,





you know that you and your team are making the most of the time, that you are creating an environment that the children need to succeed and progress in this modern life.

It's a positive environment. This is something I personally strive for everyday, and I think that if I bring this atmosphere to the centre, the staff catch on and then the children catch it. This makes everyone happy! This is a talent that when adopted by all would ensure all places are safer and positive for our Rangatahi! Nou rourou, naku rourou ka ora ai nga Tamariki!

