

FIVE AND UP

TERM 1 2019

4,3,2,1.... RESET!

If you have just finished the January holiday programme marathon, *well done people!* Hope you took some time for a quick breather because it's time to hit the reset button...

4. CONSULT WITH KIDS: we seem to be saying this a lot lately - ASK. But as OSCAR professionals isn't it our job to just 'know what's best' for kids? Sure, we "know children" and we can guess some of the answers... but it's the asking and listening that matters: *what would you like to be doing? Which places here are the most fun? How can we make sure everyone here is safe and happy?*

3. CLARIFY IMPORTANT BOUNDARIES AND ROUTINES: aim for social cohesion, where kids and staff "know the deal" that comes with being part of your team and everyone invests effort in "doing their bit". Then staff can steer children by referring back to this "social contract" rather than solely relying on a top-down "do as we say" approach.

2. CREATE A PROGRAMME-WIDE BUZZ: set up regular opportunities for staff and children to have fun together like a favourite game, a regular joke session or jumping around to music. Make fun a part of the routine and let everyone get involved. Even if it's just 10 minutes a day, the fun effects will stay around for much longer.

1. CHECK YOUR MISSION: working with children is much more than a job for many of us. If staff are dragging their feet, it might be time to ask them: "what's keeping you here?"

Do some more 'reset' work with us at this terms energising activity workshops, starting with Holiday Programme Planning Feb 26th.

In Memoriam - Pene Loza

Some of you will have heard the news that our dear colleague and inspirational teacher Pene Loza passed away in January, just a few days before her 65th birthday.

Pene had recently firmed up plans with us for several courses. Despite ongoing health issues she was looking forward to getting back into her mahi.

Pene lived an extraordinary life: rising as a young person to be a top basketball player; her years in Australia in various senior welfare, youth work & education roles and her leadership of Tamaki Pathways – an innovative youth development NGO, based in Panmure. We also found out recently that she was an accomplished guitarist.



There are hundreds of OSCAR people that Pene worked with through her Children Protection workshops and other courses on many aspects of our professional development.

We are remembering how she would steer her workshops with firm resolve, surprising humour and much compassion. We are, many of us, so much better people for knowing her.

She truly left us much too soon. *Arohanui Pene*

COMING UP SOON

Auckland

Oranga Community Centre

Tues Feb 26

HP Planning Workshop

Tues Mar 12, 19 & 26

Give it a go

Easy activities & helping kids join in

You're in

Easy games for play & participation

Doing our own thing

Programming for older children

Thurs March 14

PHAB, Takapuna

Food Forum

Wellington

March 4 Smash Club

Safe OSCAR

March 5 Levin

What's the matter?

Sorting out conflicts in OSCAR

March 6 & 7 Smash Club

Maximum Childhood

Network Meeting

More details & registration

www.oscn/nz/training

Term 2 Workshops: dates soon!

Hastings/Taupo/Palm Nth

New Plymouth/Tauranga





Give Us a Job!

Are your kids under-employed?

Any time you see staff running around setting things up, getting equipment etc. do you wonder why the kids aren't helping?

From the staff perspective, it's more effective supervision to be able to stay reasonably stationary and alert to the whole situation while kids do all the moving. Staff are then better situated to steer the ship, giving attention and feedback to kids who are on track.

Improving overall supervision is one very practical reason to use kids as helpers more, but once we think about how "programme employment" impacts children, then the benefits really pile up. Being of service and doing for others is an important balance against the "re-orientation" of many education and recreational experiences.

So with the new term reset, how about taking stock of job opportunities in your programme? Helping roles in serving food, setting up activities, fetching, carrying, sorting can all feed into a kid's "I want to do it myself" energy.

Being able to say "it's my job" is a powerful piece of self-talk for children that promotes team connection and a sense of belonging within your programme. It also provides a positive direction for kids who are showing leadership skills, when some might be challenging with their current behaviour.

Start with jobs that are easy, realistic and/or the kids like, then build an appetite for 'playing my part' from there. Soon enough even some of the more boring jobs are likely to be sought after!



New Behaviour Guidance Resource

One of the strong take home messages from our Challenging Behaviour workshops has been the need to help staff reach a more consistent approach when supporting behaviour change in children who have more persistent, off-track behaviour. It's not going to be an overnight transformation but we believe the outlook is often positive if staff can get on the same page.

That's why we've produced "Take a Step Back" - a user-friendly resource to guide staff through a problem-solving process, based on proven, effective approaches.

Staff can follow a series of questions to help them get a good picture of what is

happening that includes actively seeking the child's perspective. The emphasis is on strengths-based approaches and identifying situations where the child needs help to develop coping strategies. This information could also usefully be shared with parents/caregivers.

It's really still in a draft stage, so we'd love your feedback!

Available now at oscn.nz/resources

OSCN Forum on Menus & the Food Act

In response to on-going inquiries about compliance with the Food Act, we are organising a forum in March to bring our members together to share information about menus and food handling procedures.

Please send us your questions or any feedback and we'll put together an informal agenda.

We have also invited a food safety consultant to attend and provide some expert comment. There is a huge diversity of approaches to food handling going on and we think it would be helpful to pull some of this knowledge and experience together.

For those of you outside Auckland, we will be reporting back on the issues raised and different options/approaches for food handling and menus.

