

Social Bullying

Not just "Kids Being Kids"

Unfortunately, we see it all too often in our programmes. One little girl sitting alone and looking wistfully at another group of girls playing. She has just been ostracised cruelly with sly comments about her clothes and her friendship with another unpopular child. She is a victim of the bullying behaviour of the 'in' group.

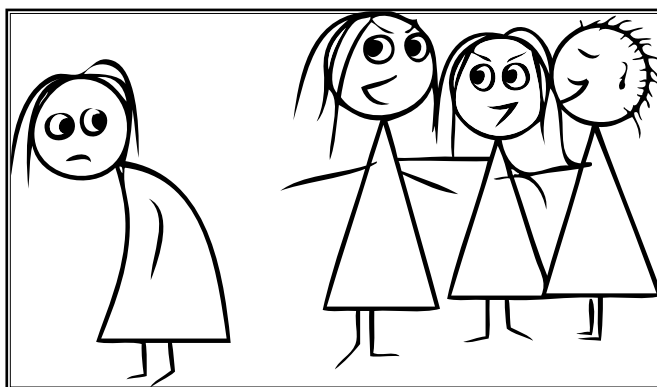
All out of school programme should offer all children a 'home away from home' where they can try new things, explore, and just be themselves, including this young girl. This safe haven is destroyed if social or physical bullying is tolerated or ignored by staff.

While physical bullying can be easier to identify and discipline, social bullying is sometimes written off as 'kids being kids'. However, social bullying can have consequences that are just as devastating. Therefore, national after school experts and authors Sue Edwards and Dr.

Kathleen Martinez contend that it is critical that after school programmes take intentional steps to educate staff about both physical and social bullying and to engage in an ongoing process to make their programme a 'bully free zone'.

More difficult to identify

All bullying is ongoing and involves an abuse of power, but it is important for staff to know the difference between social bullying and physical bullying, according to Edwards and Martinez.



Physical bullying can involve hitting, kicking, or pushing someone or even just threatening to do it. Physical bullying can also involve stealing, hiding or ruining someone's personal property or forcing someone to do things he or she doesn't want to do.

Social bullying is usually done covertly and can be difficult to identify. Dr. Ken Druck, one of the authors of *How to Talk to Your Kids About School Violence* (2003 Onomatopoeia Inc.) notes the following characteristics of social bullying:

Spreading rumours and gossip

Malicious gossip can spread very quickly. Even if untrue, it can destroy a reputation and make it very hard for a child to gain social acceptance.

Deliberate exclusion or shunning

Excluding others from social activities or forming cliques to intentionally reject or isolate former friends is a powerful and common method of social bullying.

Verbal taunting or harassment

Taunting, as opposed to teasing, is meant to hurt or belittle the victim and establish an imbalance of power. Name calling, rude jokes or nicknames and calling attention to physical or social shortcomings can all chip away at a child's self-esteem, cause embarrassment and escalate to other forms of social bullying.

Hostile expressions or body language

Staring aggressively, making faces or derogatory physical gestures, and taking

(Continued on Page 7)

INDEX

PAGE

- 1. Social Bullying: not just kids being kids.
- 2. Index and information.
- 3. Chairman's report.
- 4. A message from our Chief Executive.
- 5. OSCAR in the Park. Assistance Funding update.
- 6. OSCAR Week. Computer tips.
- 8. Our website: focus on the Programme area.

Published By:
 The OSCAR Foundation
 PO Box 91 483
 Auckland Mail Service Centre
 Auckland 1030
 Ph: 09 309 0979
 0800 GO OSCAR
 Fax: 09 309 0922
www.oscar.org.nz
info@oscar.org.nz

The OSCAR Foundation Newsletter is published and distributed by The OSCAR Foundation for its members. The logo of The OSCAR Foundation and all articles etc. are fully protected by copyright and cannot be reproduced in any form without the express permission of the publishers. Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the editors and publishers. All subscriptions and enquiries should be directed to The OSCAR Foundation at the address above.

The OSCAR Foundation National Conference 2007



The OSCAR Foundation is proud to announce that the next National Conference will be held at:

Christchurch Convention Centre Christchurch

Friday 16th March to Sunday 18th March 2007

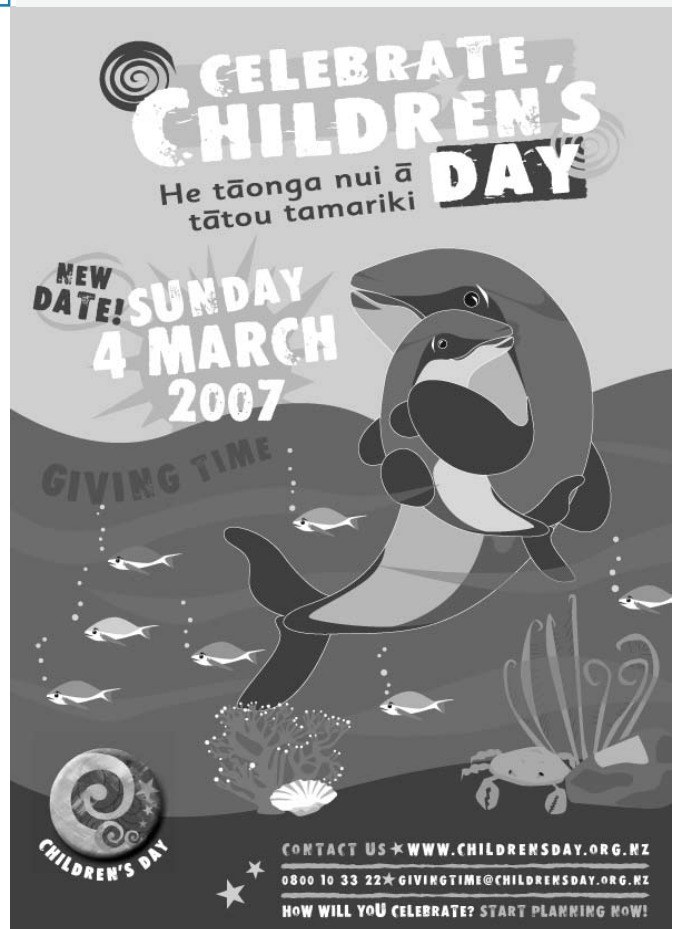
Accommodation needs to be booked early.

For more information check out our website:

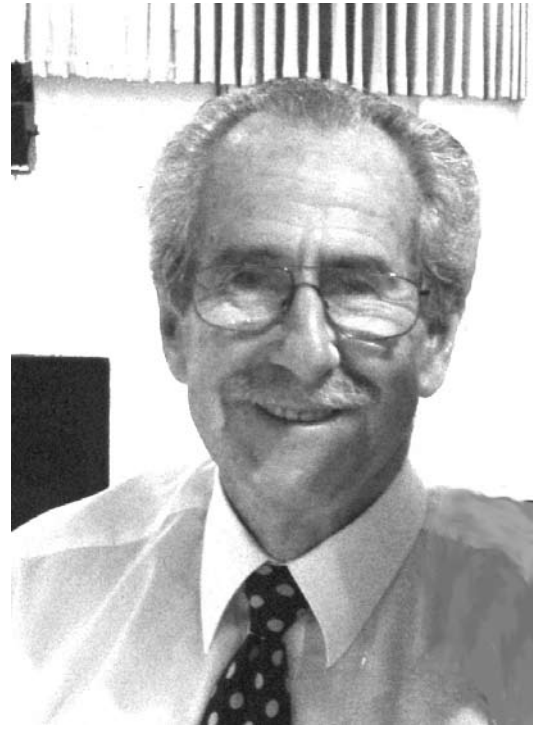
www.oscar.org.nz

Or call: 0800 GO OSCAR

We look forward to seeing you there!



Message from our Chairman



Have you received your copy of School's Out! yet? Wasn't it a delight! Not just the professional presentation, a 'glossy' that not only looks great, it smells great too. When I was teaching and opened a bundle of new books with young children, we always passed around the books to smell the wonderful aroma that comes with a classy book. Well, School's Out! looks and smells great, but the contents are superb too. Those of you who don't subscribe to it, need to get in touch with Claire at The OSCAR Foundation office and take out a subscription. Congratulations Claire to you and those who contributed. It is wonderful to see the level of professionalism permeating all aspects of The OSCAR Foundation.

I am on the eve of going overseas to lecture in the UK and USA but will return just in time for 'Talk like a Pirate Day' So "Avast, me 'earties!!" I hope to be joining you and walking the plank for the sake of OSCAR. Do check on the website: www.talklikeapirate.com so that you and the children will make the 19th September a day to remember.

Another day to remember is the next AGM. Through constitutional changes, the size of the Board will be reduced. The Board is there to serve you and to guide the Foundation in the direction that will assist us all to "Enrich Childhood" Board members must be financial members from anywhere in the country. You are encouraged to make nominations of persons who you feel will serve the Foundation well. There will be further information soon on nominations. But DO be involved. THIS IS YOUR ORGANISATION.

We are still awaiting final confirmation from the Open Polytechnic of the OSCAR Certificate, but I know that there are already 60 pre-enrollments. Have you considered enrolling ? Get in touch with your OSCAR Advisor to discuss the advantages and implications of distance learning, and the enhancement of your professionalism.

And the new OSCAR website !! Those of you who haven't yet logged on to www.oscar.org.nz are in for a huge surprise. Cara and the website team have done a most professional job and the new website is exciting,

vivid and informative. It welcomes your contribution (and your children's too). It's a great way of keeping in touch and gaining information. Do use it!! It is fantastic !!!

Well, enough of the superlatives from me. Murray and I have been invited to the OSHC SA Come out and Play conference in Adelaide in October, and I have been asked to present a key note speech there. You will not be surprised to hear that my topic will be "Enriching Childhood". We will bring you back news of Out of School Care in South Australia.

Do let us know some of the special things you are doing to enrich childhood. After all – that is what we are about and we would all like to know the highlights.

Kind regards and best wishes in your work as the days lengthen and the warmer weather approaches

Peter Headship
Chairman

Message from our Chief Executive

As mentioned by Peter, our 2006 AGM is fast approaching and has been set for Friday, 10th November. Full details will be sent out in due course. Over the course of the past year, I have met with many OSCAR programme providers and members of the Foundation from all around the country. I thought I would take this opportunity to refresh a memory or two on how the governance of the Foundation has been established (under the Constitution adopted 14th October 2005) and how members may become more involved in the organisation.

- The governance of the Foundation shall be vested in the Board, which shall consist of no less than 7 and no more than 11 members.
- Of the 11 members, 7 are to be elected with the remaining four positions open for co-option as the Board sees fit.
- Members can come from anywhere around the country with a minimum of two from the South Island and two from the North Island.
- Nominations for positions on the Board must be received in writing 28 days prior to the AGM. The nomination is to be made by two individuals or organisations, one of whom is independent of the nominee. Nominees must be fully paid up members of the Foundation, or belong to organisations that are fully paid up members of the Foundation.
- Ideally, they should also have had previous governance experience.

Over the last 18 months or so, the current Board has successfully overseen a period of substantial growth, change and excitement. Dare I say it, the next 18 months or so is likely to be just as exciting, not only for the Foundation but for the OSCAR sector as well.

Speaking of excitement, in our last newsletter I mentioned the need for a strategic plan for the OSCAR sector. There have been major developments in the last few months including with the MSD's Sector Five Year Action Plan gaining traction.



During June and August this year, the MSD held focus groups and one on one meetings with parents and providers etc in various locations around the country. This included a number of meetings with the Foundation's management and OSCAR Advisors. Alongside this, The Families Commission held a series of meetings and invited families to visit "The Couch" website and participate in their questionnaire.

It is important to note that this is still very much the information gathering stage with the view to consult widely on the draft Action Plan in 2007.

In the last couple of months, we have worked very closely with the MSD and have come to the conclusion that our sector would be much better served by the Foundation concentrating our efforts in supporting and assisting the MSD through the fact finding and consultation phases. Our Project Team is still firmly in place and The OSCAR Foundation will be appointed to the MSD's Expert Advisory Group.

All in all, I think there might be a little bit of light at the end of the tunnel for the sector.

Best wishes,

Murray Upton CEO

Oscar in the Park



OSCAR in the Park is happening in eight different regions around the country on Thursday 28 September 2006. It is a day of fun and activities for kids from OSCAR programmes to attend. Most programmes will have signed on for the **OSCAR in the Park** day at the time this newsletter comes out.

In some centres, we have unfortunately had to turn programmes away because the level of interest has been overwhelmingly high. Rest assured that we will take the level of interest into account when we are planning **OSCAR in the Park** for next year! But for those of you who are attending, we look forward to seeing you there and enjoying a great day together.

OSCAR in the Park is an initiative of The OSCAR Foundation to bring the children in OSCAR programmes from each region together and to celebrate what OSCAR is all about. Nationally we hope to have over 4000 children attending these events.

We will be working towards The OSCAR Foundation’s vision of ‘Enriching Childhood’ by providing quality recreational and social experiences for OSCAR children around the country. **OSCAR in the**



Park will showcase the diversity of the OSCAR sector and “Go Kids!”, The OSCAR Foundation initiative that promotes physical activity. **OSCAR in the Park** is an initiative of The OSCAR Foundation and proudly supported by Coca-Cola.



MSD Assistance Funding Round Update

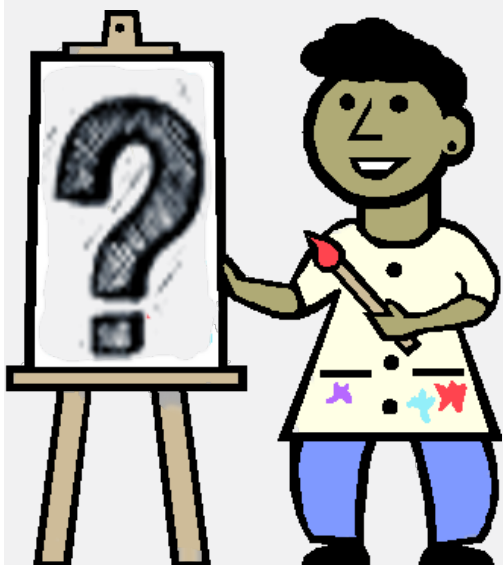
Below are the statistics for the two most recent completed Ministry of Social Development Assistance Funding rounds. This gives a general indication of how programmes are getting funded around the country. Look through these and see why we encourage all programmes applying for funding to attend funding training workshops. For more information get in contact with your local OSCAR Advisor or check out the information on our website: WWW.OSCAR.ORG.NZ

Statistics	April 2006	Oct 2005
Total number of organisations that applied	254*	270
Total number of programmes	505	560
Total number of new organisations that applied	44	27
Number of programmes that were allocated the maximum grant of \$16,000	33	25
Number of programmes not approved	38	67
Number of organisations that received 2 year’s funding	23**	33

* 3 organisations withdrew their applications during the processing stage. They were not eligible to apply as they received funding in the October 2005 funding round.
** This translates to 85 programmes that received 2 year’s funding.

OSCAR WEEK

OSCAR Week: Monday 18 – Friday 29 September 2006



OSCAR Week is underway for the year and this year's theme is '**OSCAR ROCKS!**' Programmes that have signed up for the week have joined a nationwide opportunity for OSCAR programmes to celebrate all that is great about OSCAR.

This year's OSCAR week has three great activities which are designed to help celebrate what OSCAR is all about and help **OSCAR ROCK!**

OSCAR ROCKS CHALLENGE

Programmes that have signed up for OSCAR Week are working with their children to make some funky OSCAR Rocks. The winner of the OSCAR Rocks Challenge will receive a fabulous prize.

ART COMPETITION

The art competition this year is based on 'What does OSCAR look like?' We are looking for an OSCAR icon so children need to use their imaginations and come up with something that represents what they think OSCAR is all about. There are prizes for the winners of each age category: 5-7 years, 8-10 years and 11+ years. Art competition entries need to be submitted before 13th October 2006.

OSCAR AWARDS

This year The OSCAR Foundation announced the first ever Regional OSCAR Awards. To recognise the great OSCAR work happening around New Zealand, we have divided New Zealand into nine regions. Each award category will have regional winners who will then be on the shortlist for the National OSCAR Awards to be awarded in 2007.

For more information on OSCAR Week contact: Karen at oscar@oscar.org.nz

Computer Tips

These instructions are for those using Microsoft products.

Use spellcheck

From the Tools menu – spelling and grammar

Block sender

Actions - Junk email - add sender to blocked senders list.

How to add a contacts email address to your address book.

In Microsoft Outlook
Right click on the sender's email address

(at the top of the page, usually the second line)
- add to contacts - fill in extra details - save and close (upper left).

How to password protect classified documents.

Tools - Options - Security.

Then

1. In the Password to open box, type a password, and then click OK.
2. In the Re enter password to open box, type the password again, and then click OK.

(Continued from Page 1)

hostile stances are subtle but effective ways to intimidate alienate or reject others without attracting attention or making the intimidation obvious to adults.

Abusive emails or phone calls

Access to computers and phones allows social bullying to continue even when the child is home, making it difficult for the victim to escape bullying.

It is also important for staff to be able to discern between social bullying and self-selection of friends. Bullying is ongoing and continues day after day with an intention to cause harm. If children elect to play in a self-selected group on a given day because of a mutual interest, this is probably not social bullying. If the exclusion of one child from the group continues day after day, with the added insinuation that the child is not good enough or is not wanted, the situation may be a case of social bullying and requires intervention by staff.

In order to effectively address social bullying, Edwards and Martinez suggest that after-school programmes consider the following actions:

Knowing how to effectively interact socially is not something that we know intuitively

1. The after-school programme must decide that social skill development is a critical component of their programme. Knowing how to effectively interact socially is not something that we know intuitively. We must learn it. If there are children in our programme who are not socially adept (either acting aggressively or unable to assert themselves), it is the responsibility of the staff to be proactive in teaching the needed social skills directly to the children.
2. The after-school staff must determine that their programme will have a zero tolerance policy for social and physical bullying. The zero tolerance policy needs to be actively enforced.
3. Staff must become conscious of the specifics of social and physical bullying. Staff must work to develop open communication with children so that they know it is okay to approach staff with a problem. Read body language, look and listen.
4. Staff must actively supervise to detect and

- address all bullying activity.
5. Work hard to keep kids busy! Determine what their interests are and what they can share. Develop strategies and activities that help children to 'buy in' to the programme. Work on team-building to that children support the programme as a cohesive group with a philosophy that 'We're all in this together'.
6. Staff should offer parent education about physical and social bullying so that parents will support the after-school programme's zero tolerance policy. Staff may want to share statistics on bullying and the devastating emotional and social consequences for both the bully and the victim.
7. Staff members, especially younger staff members, often tease each other and laugh in sarcastic and belittling terms among themselves. This behaviour needs to stop immediately. When children imitate the behaviour modelled by these staff members, the consequences are hurtful and it can start a wildfire of harmful behaviour among children in the programme.
8. If a child in the programme is a victim of bullying, the staff must support the victim and help him or her to move out of victim hood. The victim and bully should be counselled separately due to the power imbalance between the victim and bully. Teach the victim empowering language and tools. (There are many excellent resources for this, such as the bullying section on the pbs kids website: <http://pbskids.org/itsmylife/friends/bullies/article4.html>).
9. Staff should make efforts to intentionally provide empathetic friends for a victim of bullying. Rather than pairing one victim up with another victim which can sometimes create a larger target for bullies, staff may want to seek out a well-liked child to befriend a victim.

As Edwards notes, "We can't prevent what goes on online or at school, but we can make it unacceptable at our programme".

*Sue Edwards and Kathleen Martinez, Ph.D. are consultants and trainers through their company, Creative Out-of-School Learning. They co-authored **Fun Literacy Activities in After-School Programmes: Books & Beyond** (2005 School-Age Notes) and have a new book forthcoming entitled **Colossal Clubs for After-School Programmes**. This article first appeared in the June 2006 issue of School Age Notes, written by **Kimberly J. Friedman, School-Age Notes Special Projects Coordinator**.*



PROGRAMMES AREA

The Oscar Foundation
Focus on the website Programmes area
www.oscar.org.nz

The OSCAR Foundation website is an invaluable resource for those working in the OSCAR sector and those who access OSCAR services. I hope that everyone has had an opportunity to browse through the updated website by now. There's loads of information on the site and, as time progresses we will be adding more and more resources.

Access the Programmes area of the website and you will find key information on:

Getting Started: Starting an OSCAR programme can seem like a lot of work. Find out which key areas you need to think about before you begin.

Training: Keeping your OSCAR staff upskilled is important to ensure the quality of your programme. Find out about available training.

Regional Information: Find the OSCAR Advisor in your region. See when training and events are scheduled in your area.

Games and Activities: Games and activity ideas for the children in your OSCAR programme.



School's Out! Magazine Latest issue out now!

In Issue 45:

Fairs and shows
Storymaking
Behaviour Management
Craft Projects
And more...

School's Out! is a magazine for before school, after school and holiday programmes. It is full of tips and ideas to help you run a successful programme. Each issue also includes a pull-out 'Kids Page' of puzzles and activities that you can photocopy for the children at your programme.

By subscribing to School's Out! you will gain valuable information to assist you in making your OSCAR programme the best it can be.

Each issue includes:

- games and activities
- arts and crafts
- tips on safety
- professional development
- child management suggestions
- and more...

School's Out! is published quarterly and costs just \$30 (inc. gst) for four issues.

To subscribe contact:

The OSCAR Foundation
PO Box 91 483 AMSC, Auckland 1030
Ph: 0800 GO OSCAR
info@oscar.org.nz

Or subscribe online at: www.oscar.org.nz