

AFTER FOUR ACTIVITIES

The only problems and serious accidents we get at MERC are when the children have completed their MERC activities and left to their own devices. We recommend that the children are kept busy with constructive, fun activities. Allocate a parent, teacher or even a group of children to organise the activities each night between 4.00pm and dinner, then again between dinner and bedtime.

Here are some suggestions for activities after 4.00pm when your instructional activities have finished.

The Camp Diary:

Keeping a daily record of activities and events is always a good idea. For your convenience MERC has produced a camp diary which you can photocopy for each member of your group (enclosed). Or you and the children could design your own camp book.

Long Bay Regional Park:

Long Bay Regional Park is adjacent to MERC and is a rich resource for after four activities.

1. Rangers are available for guided walks, activities and educational talks about the park. There is a small per head charge for this to make a booking call 09 3662166. This service is available during the day and late afternoon.
2. Have a barbecue in the park. Sites with shelters can be booked.
3. The park has a playground with flying fox which the children love; take them for a walk to check it out.
4. The northern end of the park has a self guided walk which takes you onto the top of the cliffs to experience magnificent views.
5. Wide games. The park is suitable for a whole range of wide games, with heaps of places to hide and run around. Remember to set boundaries!
6. Burma Trail. Get a very long rope (a couple of washing lines tied together are ideal) and set a course through trees etc for the group to follow. Best done with group blindfolded. As an extension to this, as soon as they have completed the trail they draw the landscape they believe they have just been through. Compare their drawings with the real environment.
7. Treasure Hunt. Hide some lollies in a defined area. Make sure the natural habitat is not damaged.

The Beach:

Long Bay Beach is one of MERC's most valuable resources. It can be used for a whole variety of activities.

1. Games. Bring plenty of sports equipment. The beach can be a soccer pitch, rugby field, and netball court or softball diamond – anything you want it to be. Keep the same teams throughout the week and run a multi sport tournament or Olympic Games.
2. Sandcastle Building. Who can build the best, biggest or highest? On an incoming tide – who can build the highest before it's touched by the first wave?
3. Sand Sculpture. Get the children to make sculptures in the sand. Marine animals (whales, dolphins, fish) are always popular, the themes are endless – boats, cars, toys, their MERC instructor etc, and then decorate with shells and seaweed etc.
4. Treasure Hunt - this time sand style!
5. Rubbish Collection and Cataloguing Project (see enclosed).

Indoors:

1. The Camp Concert. Traditionally held on the last evening of camp, kids always love to put on a show! They can also spend hours rehearsing; make sure you have musical instruments and music. If the children know there is going to be a concert let them bring their own instrument, music props etc.
2. Have a party. Play all the old party games – pass the parcel, musical chairs, blindman's bluff, pin the tail on the donkey, pass balloons between legs etc.

Off – Site:

If you have transport available you may want to take the children off site for the evening. Some ideas are...

1. Waiwera hot pools only 30 mins north of MERC.
2. Snowplanet - 91 Small Rd, Silverdale, Auckland (Ph. 09 427 0044)
3. Albany Minigolf – 157 Oteha Valley Rd, Albany (Ph. 476 5030)
4. Before arriving at camp get the children to raise some money for their own special meal out. McDonalds and Wendy's are 15 minutes South at Windsor Park and Constellation Drive. There are also a number of different restaurants close by.

Project Idea

Would you prefer this?



...or this?



Worldwide, 6 million tonnes of rubbish enters the ocean every year damaging the natural environment. Please help us do our bit in reducing that number by collecting rubbish from the ocean, and Long Bay Beach.

Long Bay – Okura Marine Reserve has been a marine reserve since 1995, and includes diverse habitats including sandy beaches, rocky reefs, sand flats and mud flats for different species of marine life. We would like it to stay that way so everyone, including the marine life can enjoy it.

Teachers, why not get your students to help us out by collecting and cataloguing the rubbish from Long Bay-Okura Marine Reserve. We will provide rubbish bags and sorting bins, all you need to do is get your students to collect any rubbish found on the beach or in the water, put it into the appropriate bins and catalogue the rubbish on the sheets provided. The data is then loaded onto the Sir Peter Blake Trust Website http://www.sirpeterblaketrust.org/environment/care_for_our_coast/ and a print out given to you to show what your students have done. This way we can clean up the beach and educate the future leaders of New Zealand.

Thank you for your help,

The Team at Sir Peter Blake MERC