



www.kidsouttaschool.com

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The Activity Pack

What: It's a package with a menu of playful activities to reinforce reading, writing and maths ability. Art, craft and group play are included. Children initiate choice out of a freshly resourced package of ability-appropriate activities on any preferred day. Experimentation and number stuff are encouraged in fun ways. Reading is reinforced, not only through books, but in the ability-appropriate language of explanation and challenge. The packages prioritize skills mastery, socialization and creativity. They are individualized, new every session and are pitched at 7 age/ability "levels",

How were the packs made? The content of the Activity Packs was decided with reference to the NSW Primary School Curriculum. University students designed the packages, providing a diversity of artwork for an experience that is anything but predictable, formal or repetitive.

Rewards: We facilitate an incentives program based on computer-managed "credit accounts" that build towards a progression of personalized, downloadable and printable awards. The idea is to teach kids about accumulating value and building on achievement.

How do kids get the packs? The idea in the OOSHC context is to download and print the Activity Packs in OOSHC centres. Owing to the flexibility, scalability and ease of replication of K.O.S. wherever there is access to one computer connected to the internet and one printer, kids in regional areas have direct access to K.O.S. on the same interactive basis as children in urban centres. Individuals can do the same thing.

Sharing outcomes: The whole idea of kidsouttaschool is to build and strengthen community, and part of this is having kids share the outcomes of their work. Apart from the dynamic mix of activity that goes on in a "session" at OOSHC, our secure, interactive website facilitates the sharing of creative writing, comments, letters, news, drawings, photographs, cartoons or any other outcome of engaging with the Activity Packs. We call it the K.O.S.box. It offers an opportunity for everyone to participate in a community project. The more people write, the better they become at writing. It's fun to see one's own writing in print. Children read each other's writing, and enjoy it. Parents, staff and stakeholders can also share in the interest and insights that children's perceptions offer.

How Activity Packs work in group settings. Our programme does not structure activities into time sequence, so typical sessions have a dynamic of purposeful busy-ness in which individuals, working in pairs, threes, fours or fives, or by themselves, go about engaging with their activities in the order they choose. They also direct the amount of time spent on a particular component of the "Activity Pack", and are free to concentrate on only one activity, if it absorbs them for the whole period of a session. It is up to children to negotiate this among themselves and with their Mentors. We have a strong social skills agenda.

About K.O.S. *I Can*

Concept

We work to level the playing field so that children in care can have high quality support for their education.

We want to excite children about learning and doing.

Our age-appropriate, motivating activities foster individuality, intellectual curiosity and imagination. Our aim is to build and strengthen children's love of learning so that everyone leaves school with a qualification and a pathway to further education and employment.

Where K.O.S. fits.

We support children aged 5 -12 during times when they are not at school and when parents are working or absent, especially in out-of-school-hours care (OOSH). The majority of these children are in care for "employment reasons", not recreationally and occasionally, as may have predominantly been the case in the past. Other situations where the Activity Packs are applicable are, for example, school-excluded children, vacation care, out-of-home care and long-term hospital care and rehabilitation.

Mentors

We create co-learning partnerships of kids with adults. We build a reliable net of care so children know they are valued and are known. Mentors are engaged from the community. This "piece" of K.O.S. taps into CSR, a growing source of volunteers in professions whose companies seek "coalface" opportunities for their staff.

KOS trains mentors and provides online scheduling for centres that engage with K.O.S. Trained, and vetted Mentors are supervised and matched with children by the Coordinator in a Centre.

ABOUT OUTER SCHOOL Pty Ltd

Outer School Pty Ltd is the company that does kidsouttaschool.

