

Student 3: Low Merit

NZQA Intended for teacher use only

Personally, I took the role of organizing the Bouncy Castle, involving me to find companies which we could hire from, could hold ages up to 18 and was within a reasonable budget. I started off by looking at bouncy castle rentals in Christchurch and what bouncy castles they had on offer that would be suitable for our event. Having found two companies in Christchurch, with suitable prices and suitable bouncy castles, I emailed them with a few enquiries about the availability, age limit, transport and price. With one company being unavailable, the other was very accommodating, recommending a bouncy castle suitable for all ages, available on the day, and with a discount..... I booked the bouncy castle and wrote a list of rules and a list of other accessories I need to be sure to have on the day for example an extension cord..... I decided to drive down to FD to meet him, help him set up and do the payment before heading to buy the paint. However, taking a lot less time than I imagined.... I could go and get the paint and be back before the students arrived. This was exceptionally helpful because it allowed NK and I more time to find the paint, which we needed up needing having to go to a few stores before finding what we were looking for. ...Although I didn't get to see everyone else's set up happen, having it all done by the time NK and I returned was very positive with everyone prepared as the students arrived. In hindsight, we could have had an equipment check one or two days before the event in which case we would have realized and gone and purchased the things we were missing, or found them.

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I had thought I would have needed which was very lovely as it allowed me to relax and see how other students were going with their planning and see if they needed any help however there wasn't very much for me to do as everyone was very organized. I did help LY come up with the last of the names for our activities and help NK figure out how the scooter course and football course were going to be placed. I do feel like the jobs were set out equally as everyone had at least one station they were in charge of and the students who had more than one had agreed/chosen their roles or they had two smaller stations rather than one larger one. I felt like we did have a lot of time to plan and prepare as most students had finished their planning and organizing before the due date. However, I thought this was good as nobody felt rushed, did what they needed to do, and I think because of that the day was able to run as smoothly as it did. Something I would recommend to the group to do next time would be to go and visit the students one or two more times, maybe the week before the carnival day. Just to excite them and remind them, show our faces and see if they have any other suggestions or anything. Just to remind them who we are and what's happening, if they have any other questions.....

There was one encounter when we managed to get all of the wheelchair students lying down on the bouncy castle with a few teacher aids lightly jumping to add movement to the bouncy castle when one boy came running up and onto the bouncy castle jumping round the wheelchair students looking very unaware of what we had organized and out of control. As this happened so fast and he came out of nowhere it was a very frightening experience and I was unsure how to handle the situation I screamed and turned away despite knowing this was the absolute worst thing to do. However, with the many teacher aids around who were also shocked and scared, they managed to avoid any injuries and was able to get the student off the bouncy castle very swiftly.

I felt the bouncy castle was a really good idea and lovely activity to have at the carnival. The bouncy castle was filled with children throughout the day, children were still bouncing on it right up until the bouncy castle was being deflated where a boy who loved fans continued to watch the fan at the back of the bouncy castle. Having seen all the children who participated

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in the bouncy castle activity enjoy themselves so much and come back multiple times to have a second, third or fourth turns I think really allows us to understand how positive it was.

I did feel like the day was quite long and that it maybe could have been shorter. Rather than starting at 10 and ending at 12 it could have gone from 10:30 – 12:00 or had a full break for a snack or something rather than keep the activities gong for the full 2 hours. Despite this, I thought the day was very successful! The weather grew nicer as the day went on. All the stations seemed to always be full of students, my station seemed well liked and was always thriving with children right up until the very end when it needed to be deflated and from the thankyou cards we received.....

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Taking a few groups of students to really start to feel comfortable LY and I started to learn how to control and handle the students. For example, when a student loved the bouncy castle, but struggled to stand up and continue to stay standing allowing her to support herself on me and help the bouncy castle to provide some movement for her. Or more negatively when a student's time was up and yet they were still unwilling to get off the bouncy castle, I would have to assist them off as mentioned earlier.

Another idea LY and I tried to apply was putting students with the same capabilities on the bouncy castle at similar times in order for there to be less problems. I found this worked very well, having the capable boys who wanted to wrestle each other on at the same time and the children who would rather sit and be slightly bounced together made the experience a lot more enjoyable for the students and a lot nicer for LY and I. However, there were moments when students wouldn't listen and just run and jump frightening other students but this allowed me to work on my skills and try and communicate with them and how to behave with them.

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LY and I went and purchased more sausages for the BBQ station. It was the flexibility of others that allowed the day to flow so smoothly. Personally, I didn't have any expectations of the day as this was my first encounter with such a high number disabled children together, let alone planning a carnival or taking on the responsibility of a bouncy castle however I think that it went to plan with a lot of good communication between my class mates and our helpers.

I feel that yes, my class and I did achieve our aim to provide them with an enjoyable day full of activities and also to get them physically active in a fun filled environment. With the feedback that we have received, (cards from various schools and their students) it seems although the students and teacher aids really enjoyed themselves too and it was a successful event for us all.

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