

# LAURA OSWALD

## TRAINEESHIP, EDUCATION SUPPORT BARANDUDA PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Why did you choose to do a gap year traineeship?** I have always wanted to work with children. Doing education support I can help the process of children's primary school experience socially, emotionally and academically. It is the children's nature that always brightens your mood. Helping children with different needs and different struggles can be very challenging but very rewarding. This is a type of job I look into doing in the future.

**What is your course like?** During this year I have undertaken many learning curves and surprising experiences. I am the extra person in a classroom that students can rely on for extra help or guidance. I have made many friendships with both staff and students. My day usually consists of filing, one on one lessons, small group lessons, helping in literacy and numeracy, doing lunch time duties, inside play, following both individual learning plans and behavioural learning plans and on occasion going on camps and excursions. I have been on outdoor education camps, athletics days, Melbourne excursions and arts festivals.

For me the most important part of my job is building relationships with the students. Gaining the children's trust, respect and enjoying each other's company even if they are struggling in the task they are partaking in. It is a wonderful experience learning about how schools work daily and on functions such as school fates. I have learnt to appreciate how much work and effort some teachers put into helping the children and even help guide myself to my best abilities.

**Highlights from this year so far?** My highlights of this year would have to be the happiness and joy you see working with children every day. The excitement you see when a child finally understands or has a light bulb moment. The camps and excursions were absolutely amazing! Taking two classes up McFarlanes Hill and seeing the success students feel when reaching the top, rewarding them with lollipops. When going on the bike ride outdoor education camp and really supporting and encouraging students who struggled or had their first time away from home and medical issues.

Watching all the dance practices pay off at the arts festival having my classes win prizes. And the excitement when going to Quantum. My favourite day of the week is Monday because all the kids come to school with amazing and funny story's about their weekend, telling them with such emotion and enthusiasm. The most rewarding thing has been knowing that a student may have a better future because of the fight and effort you have put in in giving them extra support.

