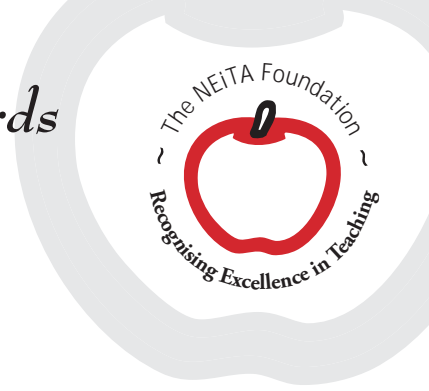


2007 National Excellence In Teaching Awards

State and Territory Teaching Excellence Award Recipient



Kate Slater

Bachelor of Arts, Diploma of Education (ECE)
Risdon Vale Primary School, Risdon Vale, Tasmania
Nominated By: Parent Association

Position: Primary Teacher • Level taught: General Primary • School type: Government • Town: Risdon Vale • Category: Primary • State: TAS

Accommodating a variety of learning styles

Flexibility is the key to Kate Slater's success as an Advanced Skills Teacher at Risdon Vale Primary. Kate incorporates many teaching styles into her curriculum to cater for the different techniques students use to learn. Her classroom is a hotbed of innovation and creativity. She is an advocate of experiential learning and constantly develops learning sequences linked to the real world. She works closely with the local community across a broad range of areas.

As well as being a classroom teacher, Kate is a support teacher who assists students with learning difficulties. She develops *Individual Education Programs* for these students. Kate also works with disabled and autistic students across the school. Kate has developed a daily sports program and a student mediators program and has supported young children after school with a motor skills program.

Insight

Q: In your opinion, what makes a good teacher?

A: Enthusiasm, passion, intelligence, empathy and a sense of humour. It is the overall ability to develop, maintain, and encourage relationships that are safe and allow trust.

Q: How do you maintain your enthusiasm for teaching?

A: By pushing my own experience and learning alongside my students; by looking for new ways to extend myself.

Q: In hindsight, what do you wish your training provided you with more of?

A: Learning alongside good mentors not only during training but afterwards as well. Work experience does not necessarily develop teachers who are excellent in mentoring and demonstrate good practice.

Q: What is the most difficult aspect of teaching today?

A: The lack of a national curriculum and guidance. Time and resources are wasted on individual planning and dubious state directions.

Q: What is your greatest challenge as a teacher?

A: Covering all areas and teaching for all students at their individual levels and learning styles.

Q: How has teaching changed over the years?

A: Skills are less valued and the language of educational pedagogy is more difficult to comprehend.

Q: What is the single most important thing you, as a teacher, can do to connect with individual students?

A: Listen. Make the time to listen in a holistic way. Listening not just to their responses to questions but also their questions, behaviours and body language.

Q: If you were the Minister for Education, Science and Training for a week, what would you try to change?

A: Only for a week!! The process for long-term educational change needs to start with best practice worldwide. Bring in the states to support each other with educational reform.

Q: What keeps you awake at night?

A: How to best fit school to my community. What ways can we connect with a community in poverty and how can we improve the educational outcomes of our students.

Q: If your students could describe you in three words, what would they say?

A: Fair, friendly, and kind.

Contact Details:

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