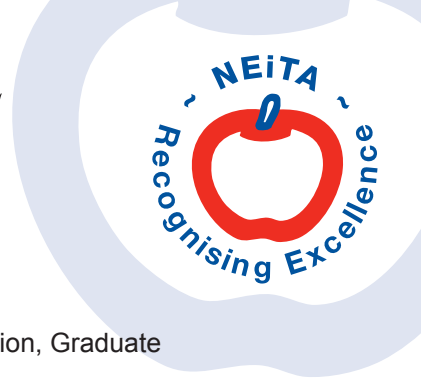


NEiTA 2009 ASG National Teaching Awards

National Award Recipient



Vicki Fortescue

Bachelor of Arts (Education major), Graduate Diploma of Education, Graduate Certificate in Professional Studies (Special Education)

Jervis Bay Preschool (Jervis Bay P-6 School), Australian Capital Territory

Nominated by: Preschool Parents' Committee

National Award Category: Community Engagement

Position: Coordinator/teacher • Category: Early childhood • Level taught: Preschool • Years teaching: 12 years • Years at this school: 9 years • School type: Government • Town/Suburb: Jervis Bay Territory • State: ACT • Postcode: 2540

How do you inspire your students?

I have high expectations for all children and, by displaying confidence in their capacity to learn and in their capabilities, children are always willing to do their best. I inspire my students by scaffolding both teaching and learning to build skills and confidence. I focus on development of social skills and self-esteem and speaking skills. Preschool parents have been amazed at their child's confidence in getting up in front of the whole school. Preschool children are involved in all relevant school activities including shows and excursions.

Fostering a sense of community and belonging

Uniquely located on the HMAS Creswell Naval Base in Jervis Bay Territory, Jervis Bay Preschool caters for students from diverse cultural backgrounds. More than 70 per cent of students are from Indigenous backgrounds and 20 per cent are from naval or federal police families. The remainder of students come from nearby towns in New South Wales, or are from families of Booderee National Park personnel. As preschool coordinator and head teacher, Vicki Fortescue works hard to ensure a harmonious learning environment for this diverse range of children.

Vicki works collaboratively with the children and parents to structure individual learning plans for each preschooler. She has devised a set of key indicators that she uses to monitor each child's development throughout the preschool year. The indicators cover such areas as social and motor skills, literacy, and information and communication technologies.

Vicki has been instrumental in developing and maintaining the Booderee Junior Ranger Program which is run in partnership with the nearby Booderee National Park. Indigenous park rangers visit the school to teach the preschoolers about environmental and cultural awareness. The children also visit the national park to learn about local flora, fauna, and cultural history.

Jervis Bay Preschool has become a pilot school for the Department of Education's Early Entry Indigenous Program that aims to improve the educational opportunities for young Indigenous learners. Vicki's ability to integrate and motivate her diverse school population has been recognised, and she has been asked to be a presenter at the Dare To Lead National Early Childhood Conference.

Vicki is a teacher who cares greatly about the successful transition of her preschoolers to further education. She supports and inspires her students so as to give each child the chance of enjoying a successful learning journey.

Contact details:

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