

NEiTA 2009 ASG Inspirational Teaching Awards

State and Territory Award Recipient



Angela Barr

Diploma of Social Sciences (Child Care), Diploma of Teaching (Early Childhood),
Bachelor of Educational Studies, Master of Education

Olive Phillips Kindergarten, Beaumaris, Victoria

Nominated by: Committee of Management

Position: Director of Centre and Teaching • Category: Early Childhood • Level taught: 4 year-old kindergarten • Years teaching: 17 years • Years at this school: 5 years • School type: Government • Town/Suburb: Beaumaris • State: Victoria • Postcode: 3191

Why teaching?

I was inspired when I completed school work experiences at a local kindergarten. The teacher was kind and caring. She provided a stimulating program.

My enthusiasm is maintained through researching innovative teaching practices, lecturing to pre-service teachers, attending international study tours, networking with teachers and building positive relationships with families in the local community. I am passionate about making a difference in children's lives.

Showcasing best practice and innovation in early childhood teaching

Angela Barr creates a respectful and inviting environment in which children have the opportunity to learn in their own way. As Director of Centre and Teaching at Olive Phillips Kindergarten, she initiates programs that foster equality for all children and honour diversity including cultural and linguistic diversity and differing family structures. Angela has developed her own unique early childhood teaching philosophy, which draws on some of the principles of Reggio Emilia, Montessori and Howard Gardner. Her techniques focus on the individual strengths and interests of each child to maximise their developmental opportunities. She believes that learning is a process of shared construction between parents, children, teachers and the wider community.

Angela has helped to create a stimulating learning environment for all students, not only in the classroom, but also in the beautifully aesthetic outdoor space, which includes a vegetable garden, large shady trees, indigenous plants, a mock riverbed, and an amphitheatre. Angela believes in bringing the parents and wider community into her classroom. She has also initiated an annual art exhibition, a kindergarten open day for university lecturers, and hosts a regular artists-in-residence program.

To further her knowledge of early childhood teaching, Angela has attended two international study tours – one to Italy and one to South Africa, as well as completing her Master of Education.

The success of Angela's teaching methods is demonstrated by the fact that her kindergarten has been selected to participate in Monash, Victoria and Deakin University research projects. But perhaps her success is even better illustrated by the full classes and long waiting lists at Olive Phillips Kindergarten, and the satisfaction of parents and children alike.

Contact details:

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