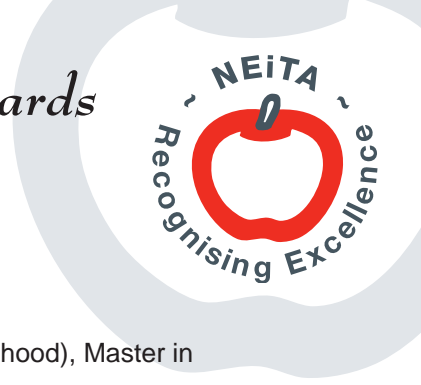


# NEiTA 2009 ASG Inspirational Teaching Awards

## State and Territory Award Recipient



## Sue Southey

Bachelor of Education Studies, Diploma of Teaching (Early Childhood), Master in Early Years Education (current)

**Springwood Community Kindergarten**, Springwood, Queensland

Nominated by: Committee of Management

*Position: 3 Day pre-prep group teacher • Category: Early Childhood • Level taught: 3.5 – 4.5 year-olds • Years teaching: 31 years • Years at this school: 29 years • School type: Independent • Town/Suburb: Springwood • State: Queensland • Postcode: 4109*

### Why teaching?

I believe that by working with families and young children in the early years, we make a positive impact on children's lives and help them begin their lifelong journey of learning.

In community kindergartens, we are in an ideal position to develop strong relationships with children and parents. In doing so, we are able to develop respect, support individual needs, and build communities of learners working together to inspire children to learn.

### Inspiring participation to achieve educational excellence

Sue Southey has nurtured approximately 1000 young students during her three decades at Springwood Community Kindergarten and it is testimony to her dedication that she now has second-generation pupils in her classes. She inspires her students with a constantly changing and engaging classroom environment and a hands-on approach to teaching.

Not only does Sue encourage the children in her classes but she also works hard to involve their parents. She believes that the best long-term outcomes occur if parents gain the confidence to engage in their child's education. She conducts parent surveys, sends out weekly email news sheets, and has conducted literacy workshops for parents and friends of the kindergarten. These efforts have resulted in all parents attending parent interviews this year, and a high parent participation rate in classroom activities.

Sue works with other teachers to share successful learning strategies. She is a member of both the State Coordinating Committee of the Early Childhood Teachers' Association, and ECTA's web weaving group. In the field of early childhood music, she is recognised as a professional development provider at state and national levels, and has published several journal articles in this field. Her commitment to teaching is further demonstrated by the fact that she is currently completing her Master in Early Years Education degree.

Along with teaching, music is Sue's other great passion. She incorporates music into nearly all her classroom activities as well as conducting musical workshops to inspire other teachers. She has been involved in the production of three CDs for early childhood classroom use, and has been a musical presenter at the Early Childhood Performing Arts Conference for many years.

Sue's extensive use of music in her classroom reinforces her teaching philosophies which promote inclusiveness and diversity. She values music because she believes it engages all children regardless of their developmental levels or challenges. Music is also a great vehicle for introducing children to other cultures and especially for making children feel included in group learning activities.

#### Contact details:

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