

# 2016 ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards

## National Award Recipient



### Emma Larsen

Avenel Kindergarten, VIC

Emma believes that educators need to encapsulate the spirit of lifelong learning, and sees great benefit in teachers surrounding themselves with like-minded educators who are passionate, driven and inspired. She attended the International Play Iceland conference and benefitted greatly from the passion and ideas of her international counterparts.

Her classroom focuses on a play based indoor-outdoor program that allows for extended periods of uninterrupted play in a nature-inspired environment where children are encouraged to take risks, explore and imagine.

Emma takes a holistic approach to children's learning and growing, working collaboratively with families, other educators and agencies, while viewing all children as unique and capable learners. Her program is reflective of individual needs, and encourages children to document their own learning in the form of a floor-book that contains photos taken of and by the children, their drawings, explanations of the learning taking place and their suggestions for future classes. Emma and her team of educators use this book as part of their future education plans, thus ensuring the interests of the children are taken into account.

Emma cites one of her biggest achievements as being the dramatic uptake in enrolments at Avenel Kindergarten. In the year prior to her commencement at the kinder only 14 children enrolled in the funded four year old program. In 2016, 44 children regularly attend funded kindergarten.

Emma's National Award is for Early Career Teaching.