

2016 ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards

State and Territory Award Recipient

Erin Ahearn

Secret Harbour Primary School
Secret Harbour, Western Australia

Erin's classroom is built around the Walker Learning style of teaching, incorporating a variety of open-ended activities presented in a play-based manner. She uses provocations to extend learning and engagement, and, aware that kindergarten students are not always consistent in their displays of knowledge, utilises open-ended investigations to allow children to engage authentically in activities.

Rather than having children rotate through adult created and led activities, students have free access to staff who are encouraged to spend time observing, engaging, scaffolding and listening to students as they participate in their investigations, thus creating opportunities for authentic assessment and extension. This also promotes trusting relationship and builds a genuine understanding and appreciation of each child as an individual.

An example of the success of Erin's teaching approach was encouraging one student who was reluctant to talk in class and who rarely engaged with educators to converse, via investigations, without feeling pressured.

Erin is also committed to working with families to extend learning. Parents have photo access to the school's current learning intentions and investigation areas, meaning they are able to engage in and extend conversations about school with their children, which in turn helps promote continued learning at home.

Position	Other responsibilities	Category	Subjects/level taught	Years teaching
Early Childhood Teacher		Early Childhood		11
	School type	Nominated by	Town/suburb	State and postcode
8	Public	Parent	Secret Harbour	WA, 6173

Contact details:

Teacher: Erin Ahearn

Phone: 08 9524 8100

Principal/Director: Lisa Fletcher

Email: secretharbour.ps@education.wa.edu.au

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Registered Office 23-35 Hanover St Oakleigh Vic Australia 3166

For further information, please contact:
Nicole Gundi, Public Relations, Australian Scholarships Group
Phone: 03 9276 7520 Mobile: 0448 167 578 Fax: 03 9276 7798
Email: publicrelations@asg.com.au asg.com.au/neita

