

2016 ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards

State and Territory Award Recipient

Nina Belskaya

Alpha Children's Centre
Richmond, Victoria

While growing up and studying at boarding school in the former USSR, Nina was drawn to looking after and helping other students, and her warm personality and creative enthusiasm drew her peers, just as it draws her students today.

Nina is an enthusiastic early years' teacher committed to bringing new ideas into her classroom. She believes that learning in an informal setting links educational content with a child's interests, and that learning can be enriched by experiences in everyday life.

She is also an advocate of spontaneous learning, which can occur when carrying out an activity that is seemingly unrelated to what is currently being taught, and encourages students to learn while 'doing', through hands-on investigation, exploration and evaluation.

The embodied teaching strategy helps children to use their mind and body together, involving children in physical experiences and movements helps them to learn about space and self-awareness. This is another method employed by Nina in her kindergarten classroom.

An example of her success in the classroom was helping one student who did not speak English, but who feely expressed herself in German, to express herself in English via a process of parallel play and engaging the child in small group activities that interested her.

Position	Other responsibilities	Category	Subjects/level taught	Years teaching
Kindergarten Teacher		Early Childhood		42
Years at this school/centre	School type	Nominated by	Town/suburb	State and postcode
13	Private	Parent	Richmond	VIC, 3121

Contact details:

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