

2016 ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards

State and Territory Award Recipient

Tracey Marsden

Yidarra Catholic Primary School
Bateman, Western Australia

The two kindergarten classes at Yidarra Catholic Primary School were recently integrated to become one class, under Tracey's direction. This successful merger has enabled two classroom teachers to combine their specialist knowledge and provides the children and staff with an opportunity to work collaboratively in a shared, play-based, emergent, indoor-outdoor classroom. Children now have access to a larger environment and work with six qualified members of staff, instead of three educators in each class. To ensure all children feel safe, secure and confident in the new setting, each child belongs to a key group of 10 children.

It is well recognised that social and emotional development during the early years impacts the health, wellbeing and competence of children and Tracey is committed to helping children to develop strengths in these areas. The children in her kindergarten class are invited to learn through an emergent play-based curriculum, developed with each child's interests in mind, and with responsiveness to their development and learning.

In Tracey's classroom, educators focus on observing, recording and engaging with children. Staff come together daily to discuss individual children and this information is tracked and informs future programs.

Tracey also recognises that parents and families are a child's first and most influential teachers, and she is committed to involving parents in the kindergarten in order to provide a positive, sustained and reciprocal relationship, ensuring optimal development for every child.

Position	Other responsibilities	Category	Subjects/level taught	Years teaching
Kindergarten Teacher		Early Childhood		15
	School type	Nominated by	Town/suburb	State and postcode
5	Private	Parent	Bateman	WA, 6150

Contact details:

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