

Rosanne Pugh

KU Ourimbah Preschool and Children's Centre, NSW



Rosanne has 34 years of teaching experience. These years have influenced her philosophy of the teaching-learning process. She believes that teaching can build self-belief in children and widen the way grownups understand children.

She approaches teaching by accompanying children in projects that build knowledge by probing their theories and becoming a 'co-conspirator' in exploring and learning together. Rosanne says she values children as capable citizens, and makes sure that her respect for them is felt and seen in the ways in which grownups are known and heard, acknowledged, welcomed and cherished.

She is proud to be associated with her children's latest project—drawing up an alternative bio-topic map of the Ourimbah Campus of the University of Newcastle, where her preschool and children's centre is located. The map has been admired for its artistry, which depicts their relationship with the landscape and concerns for wildlife and has since been commissioned for the Parent Room in the campus library.

Rosanne is a strong advocate of early education, calling it "an investment that pays back generously to society". She calls the early childhood stage 'a fascinating arena' that

crosses the boundaries of science, human development, social policy, economics and politics.

Rosanne is deeply interested in contributing to Australian research on how 'education for sustainability' benefits child outcomes, positively influencing children's physical, mental and emotional development so that children are stronger and more agile, happier and less anxious and more considered and caring citizens.