

## Zoe Rule

*Lilyfield Early Learning Centre, NSW*



Zoe believes that providing guidance to children during the early years and being a positive influence in these important developmental stages in a person's life is a privilege and a calling.

She says being able to regulate one's emotions, empathy and creative thinking, which help grownups successfully navigate through the challenges and opportunities in our daily lives, are fundamental skills learnt in our early years.

Some of the initiatives Zoe is involved in include a charity committee that has seen pre-schoolers help with food donations to OzHarvest, an Australian food rescue charity that collects quality surplus food and distributes it to people in need and in the process diverting food waste from landfills.

She has also embedded a peer mentor program for educators to enhance their professional skills and ability to critically reflect on their practice. She has helped her centre forge a partnership with an age care home to enable the children in her centre to visit and interact with oldest members of the Lilyfield community to learn and to have fun together.

There are other fascinating projects that Zoe's centre is involved in: such as collaborating with a local primary school to have the Year 6s buddy up with the pre-schoolers in Zoe's centre for reading sessions and a research project with the Powerhouse Museum that will seek to develop children's thinking skills with regards to early computer coding technology and science while measuring their progress over time.

Zoe is the recipient of the 2018 ASG NEiTA Early Careers Award.