

Early Childhood Management Services

Media Release
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ECMS teacher announced as Early Childhood Teacher of the Year finalist

Emma Forsyth, ECMS kindergarten teacher at St Vincent's Early Learning Centre in Fitzroy, has been announced as one of three Victorian finalists for Early Childhood Teacher of the Year as part of the Early Years Awards 2015.

The Early Years Awards, which are presented by the Department of Education and Training, celebrate some of the state's most hardworking and innovative early childhood professionals, sector wide.

Emma was recognised for her commitment and drive to improving the quality of education for children and the support and guidance she provides to her fellow educators.

"As educational leader, Emma inspires and motivates the team to continually strive for high quality practices and has been instrumental in significant improvements at the service," says ECMS Regional Manager, Rhiannon Williams.

"She builds on the strengths of all educators and encourages all her colleagues to learn and develop their own skills and knowledge in the field of early childhood education."

"Emma has also received overwhelmingly positive feedback from families about the curriculum she provides in the kindergarten program and the enhanced learning and lifelong skills their children are gaining."

Emma attributes her success to building strong relationships with everyone in her community, including the children and families, her colleagues, early childhood sector leaders and local community groups.

"My teaching practices and the program delivered in my classroom begins with community," she says, adding, "I see my role as creating life-long learners, not only for school readiness, but the child as a whole, seen within their learning journey and community."

"I am very humbled to have been selected as a finalist in the Early Years Awards. The Awards night will be a fantastic celebration of the Early Childhood Sector and all those who work tirelessly to create positive outcomes for children and families in our communities."

The ECMS team was also thrilled to learn Emma was shortlisted for the Early Childhood Teacher of the Year Award.

"It's a great testament to Emma's commitment, passion and skill and is also a positive reinforcement of the quality and value of integrated kindergarten programs in our early learning centres," says ECMS CEO, Bernie Nott.

Emma and her colleagues will attend the Early Years Awards 2015 award ceremony at the National Gallery of Victoria International on Wednesday 28 October, where winners in each category will be announced. The recipient of the Early Childhood Teacher award will receive \$10,000 to support their professional development goals.

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More information about the Early Years Awards is available on the [Early Years Awards 2015 website](#).

About ECMS:

St Vincent's Early Learning Centre is part of ECMS's network of 72 early childhood education and care services located across Melbourne. Visit www.ecms.org.au for more information.

Media enquiries:

To arrange an interview or photo opportunity please contact Kate Jeremiah, ECMS Communication and Events Coordinator, on 03 8481 1124 or via email at kjeremiah@ecms.org.au.