

# Congratulations to Galina Zenin



Montessori Australia congratulates Galina Zenin of Bonkers Beat Music Kinder and Childcare (Aspendale) in Victoria on her National Excellence in Teaching Award (NEITA). Bonkers Beat incorporates a Montessori approach, and Galina has been an enthusiastic presenter at our Early Childhood Education and Care Conference in the past. Selected from 1100 nominations, Galina is one of 12 recipients of the award this year. The national awards are divided into three categories: leadership and development, innovation and community engagement.

Award recipients will each receive a \$5000 professional development grant. Galina was nominated by parents for a Community Engagement Award for her outstanding contribution and commitment as a leader and for building trust and rapport across the entire community.

Bonkers Beat is Australia's first dedicated music kinder where music is the foundation of children's learning and an integral part of the curriculum. Galina studied at the Gnessin Russian Academy of Music and started her career teaching in a primary school in Russia. She now facilitates early learning through the power of music, wellbeing and play and her centre exceeds the Australian National Quality Standards. Galina's programme also includes physical development, languages, literacy and numeracy, catering for individual learning and meeting the requirements of children with additional needs.

The award announcement from Galina's family is included below.

Hello Bonkers Beat followers,

It's Yuri Zenin here with a very exciting announcement...

It's official – Galina Zenin is a NATIONAL teaching award-winner! Galina has received a National Excellence in Teaching Award (NEITA) from the Australian Scholarships Group in the category of Early Childhood Education.

These awards honour exemplary teaching throughout Australia and New Zealand, and Galina was overjoyed to become an ASG State and Territory Award recipient last year. She is incredibly humbled and delighted to have now been recognised on a national level with this National Excellence in Teaching Award from ASG.

I watch Galina dedicate herself all day, every day (and sometimes all night!), and as her husband I couldn't be more proud. She truly commits every moment to Early Childhood Education and developing programmes to continue to deliver the very best start in life to young children.

I want to thank everyone who supports Galina and Bonkers Beat. Your ongoing support, encouragement and passion for early years learning as parents, educators and industry peers has contributed greatly to Galina's journey in becoming an award-winner and leader in Early Childhood Education.

Kind regards,  
Yuri Zenin, Bonkers Beat

P.S. For more information about the NEITA awards visit the ASG NEITA website [www.asg.com.au/asg-neita](http://www.asg.com.au/asg-neita). For more about all 2015 National award recipients, visit [www.asg.com.au/national-neita-teacher-profiles](http://www.asg.com.au/national-neita-teacher-profiles).



## Galina Zenin

Bonkers Beat Music Kinder and Childcare Aspendale, Aspendale, Victoria

Music is quintessential to teacher Galina Zenin. As director of Bonkers Beat Music Kinder & Childcare Aspendale she works hard to bring the joys of song and melody to early learners. Teaching children through music builds social bonds and enlivens the soul, she says.

Galina grew up in Russia, where she studied at the Gnessin Russian Academy of Music and then began teaching at primary schools in Moscow.

In 2006 she opened Australia's first dedicated music kinder– Bonkers Beat in Brighton East, Melbourne, believing that the earlier children are exposed to music the sooner their journey towards the fulfilment of their potential can begin.

Galina facilitates early learning through the power of music, wellbeing and play. And while the Bonkers Beat incorporates music as an integral part of its curriculum, it also focuses on physical movement, languages, literacy and numeracy.

The Bonkers Beat outdoor area has two yoga decks and a Balinese hut for kinder children and toddlers to participate in regular yoga classes. The area also includes a jungle walk and reflexology path, built with parents' help and providing the children with a totally sensory experience.

In 2010, the Bonkers Beat Music Kinder in Brighton was selected for the E4Kids study conducted by DEECD and the University of Melbourne. The Bonkers Beat Music Kinder & Childcare Aspendale was selected as a pilot centre for the National Quality Standard and in 2012 received an overall rating Exceeding NOS.

Galina's National Award is for Community Engagement.

POSITION	OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES	CATEGORY	SUBJECTS/LEVEL TAUGHT	YEARS TEACHING
Program Director	Educational Leader	Early Childhood		30
YEARS AT THIS SCHOOL/CENTRE	SCHOOL TYPE	NOMINATED BY	TOWN/SUBURB	STATE AND POSTCODE
6	Independent	Parent	Aspendale	VIC. 3195