PIRATES

An Early-Years Group Program for Developing Social Understanding and Social Competence for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and Related Challenges

Dr. Margaret Anne Carter and Josie Santomauro
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WE APPRECIATE...

The following kindergarten, preschool and school communities have participated in the Pirates pilot program. We appreciate their professional commitment to testing the program and their insightful feedback. We sincerely thank the children for their enthusiasm and engagement as they participated as learners in the Pirates program.

Mary Mackillop Catholic School, Brisbane, Queensland
Condy Park Community Kindergarten, Pialba, Queensland
The Range Community Kindergarten, Mapleton, Queensland
St. Laurence's Catholic School, Forbes, New South Wales
Mueller Christian College, Brisbane, Queensland
St. Brendan's Catholic School, Brisbane, Queensland
Jinibara State School, Jinibara, Queensland

WE DEDICATE...

We have written the Pirates program to help children with social-cognitive challenges, including autism spectrum disorders (ASD), learn constructive social interaction skills in the area of friendship making, social problem solving and emotional expression.

As educators and advocates in the field of ASD, we are of the opinion that it is important to teach children these concepts and the accompanying skills so that they continue to broaden their social understanding repertoire. Pirates is intentionally designed to make a difference in the lives of young children with ASD, children who find the social world perplexing and mystifying. The program is dedicated to children across the early years as they grow and develop their competencies and capabilities as social individuals.

– Dr. Margaret Anne Carter and Josie Santomauro
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