

Q&A with Crib Point Public School, Victoria Australia

Tina Coombe, Principal

Q: What do you like about *Second Step*?

“First of all, the ease of implementation in the school has just been fantastic. It’s a program that covers Prep all the way through to Year 6 so we’re able to teach it cohesively throughout the school and build upon it year to year. You can see the skill development from Prep all the way through to Grade 6. The thing my teachers like the most is definitely the ease of teaching the lessons and the content – it’s explicit, it’s easy to understand and really nice to teach. The activities are engaging, the class has a bit of fun and the students really like it. I often find when I visit the classroom, the kids really want to show me what they are doing in *Second Step* and the skills that they’ve learnt. For example, the Skills for Learning, (doing the actions) eyes watching, ears listening, mouth quiet, calm body. They like to show off their skills!

Q: What do you like about *Second Step* from a Principal’s perspective?

“As a Principal, knowing that there is that consistency from Prep through to Year 6 and knowing that it is an incredibly well-researched and evidence-based program. It’s not just someone thinking that this might be a good idea, the evidence behind the program is fantastic. Knowing all of that, I am confident and proud to say that *Second Step* is in our school.”

Teacher 1

Q: What do you like about the *Second Step* Program?

“I like that *Second Step* is in Grade-levels, so you’ve got specific grade-levels to work from and each level is not repetitive year in year out. If we’re working in composite grades we tend to start off with the lower year level and as their skills begin to expand, we’ll take them up to the next year level.

Each kit has all the aids that we need to use, we don’t have to go looking for any extras, it’s all there included in the kit and it focusses in on specific areas. For example, focussing attention on learning, skills for life, how to make a friend and how to treat a friend.”

Q: Do you think the children in your class like learning *Second Step*?

“They love it! Each lesson doesn’t go for too long, about 20 minutes to half an hour so it’s something that they don’t lose focus on. All the activities are hands on, there are many activities where they pair share with the partner next to them. The kids are always involved in the activities! It’s not a lot of listening, it’s a lot of doing.”

Teacher 2

Q: Do you think the students will pick up the lessons in *Second Step* easily?

“Definitely. It will scaffold them with strategies to use to further their learning and to nurture their Social Emotional growth to be the best they can be.”

Teacher 3 – Foundation Year Teacher

Q: What do you like about the *Second Step* Program?

“I find the program fantastic, I am the Foundation Year teacher and I find the whole program very effective. There’s all the visual aspects that the children can cue into as well as the actions. It’s just really easy for the kids to follow.

The beauty of *Second Step* here at our school is that we have implemented it across the whole school, so the language is consistent across the school. I find it very powerful because all I have to do is the actions that represent each of the Skills for Learning and the children straight away start to recite back to me what each action means. Of course, the puppets are gorgeous as well, the children absolutely love them!”

Q: Speaking of Skills for Learning, tell me what you think about them?

“The Skills for Learning are so important as they cover all areas. It doesn’t matter what stage of the day we’re at, you can always refer back to the Skills for Learning. The visual cards are fantastic as well so, all in all, it’s just a great program.”