



Spirit of Childhood MEDIA RELEASE

Empowering &
Transformative
Education

**Indigenous pre-school program
CREATING POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR
ABORIGINAL MOTHERS AND CHILDREN**



Amy and her daughter were referred to the group by Brighter Futures

An innovative early education program is successfully helping young Aboriginal mothers and children with parenting skills and strategies.

The Inspir=Ed Spirit of Childhood program currently running at the Tharwal Aboriginal Corporation provides mothers and children with a weekly experiential learning program that has had extremely positive results.



Mothers and children engage in craft activities

We are getting more and more families coming to the group. We really love the program. We could really see the change in the children in just one week when they started with the program which included removing all plastic toys and using only natural materials. Previously the children had been quite aggressive and unsettled. They became so much quieter, they are more settled, they are thriving. The program is really excellent. **Hilda Coombe, Health Services Co-Ordinator, Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation**



Angela Rivas, group facilitator, leads the songs and games



"The kids benefit from it a lot, they learn routine, songs, and interacting with other kids" - Jocelyn, mother of four children

The Spirit of Childhood programs have been developed from over three years research into best practice parent education and early childhood education. The Inspir=Ed Spirit of Childhood programs are providing positive outcomes for parents and children across NSW, Qld, NT and with programs planned in WA, SA and Tasmania. The programs aims are to strengthen early parent child bonds, build parenting skills and support an understanding of the early childhood ages and stages.

The children are now playing quietly and co-operatively with each other. In particular the change in behaviour of one the young children has been extraordinary. She used to scream at the door and throw tantrums and wouldn't participate in group activities. Now she looks to hold hands when we are singing songs and plays calmly and independently. You couldn't believe she was the same child. **Pamela Simon, Indigenous Children's Program Co-Ordinator, Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation**

Darryl Wright, CEO of Tharawal is delighted with the success of the program. "There has been such a positive change in the behaviour of parents and children - this important program is working in culturally appropriate ways to improve the knowledge and skills of our parents and children."

The program has been so well received Tharawal are looking at introducing it in their associated child care and pre-school centre.

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 Interviews with community members and health workers are available.