

# The AEDI in Action

## Case Study: Western Suburbs, Perth Western Australia



### AEDI Participation

Year of completion:	2006*
Number of primary schools:	29
Number of children:	966
Number of teachers:	45



\* The northern-metropolitan area of Perth participated in the pilot EDI project in 2003. Some comments in this case study reflect outcomes from the pilot project.

'The AEDI provided evidence to focus resources on the early years'

### Communication of the AEDI results

The AEDI results were disseminated locally using some of the following strategies:

- Telephone contact with principals of local participating primary schools;
- Presentation to kindergarten to year three (K-3) teaching staff;
- Presentation to the Parent's and Citizen's Association K-3 sub-committee;
- An early years forum with representatives from local government and non-government agencies and community health nursing staff and parents. The forum included a presentation on the AEDI results, case study presentations on early years initiatives in other communities and a workshop session to review 'what we are doing well' and 'what could we be doing better'.

### Community use of the AEDI results

#### Development of Early Years groups

The West Coast Early Years Group was developed in 2003 to highlight early years issues in the community and for services to develop and implement collaborative early years initiatives. The Group provides an opportunity for joint professional development and information sharing to increase awareness of services for families.

The Swanny Community Group, made up of parents and agency representatives, was developed in 2006. The Group have established a story telling and constructed play program, investigated options for before-after school care, parents lounges and reviewed local road safety to encourage walking to school.

#### Early literacy programs – story telling and constructed play

A story telling and constructed play session for three to four year olds was trialled in one primary school to:

- Identify children at risk of developmental delay and refer to early intervention program/s;
- Increase parenting skills so parents can interact with their children in a positive manner;
- Decrease the number of children entering kindergarten with literacy or numeracy problems and;
- Increase the social network of families.

Due to the success of the trial, story telling and constructed play sessions are now offered in a number of primary schools in the Western Suburbs.

To develop early literacy in infants and children, baby story-time programs are now conducted by librarians across shires in the Western Suburbs.

### Positive outcomes

- The AEDI provided evidence to focus resources on the early years and mobilise local communities and agencies.
- The development of an Early Years program in response to the AEDI results. This program is now being used as the model to implement similar programs in four other communities.

'A local primary school developed an early years story telling and constructed play program'

### Challenges

- The lack of funding to run local programs and lack of avenues to apply for funding because the area is considered high socioeconomic status.

### Child and Adolescent Community Health. Oceanic Health Region

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For more information go to [www.aedi.org.au](http://www.aedi.org.au)



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