

Assist Indigenous Kids



Photos courtesy of Beyond Empathy

Have you ever thought why starting preschool might be so important for Indigenous kids?

The *Assist Indigenous Kids* Project gives Indigenous children the best possible start in life by getting them to preschool on the “first day, first term”.

Many Indigenous parents experienced racism and discrimination when they were kids at school. As a result, these parents do not often see education as important for their children. The *Assist Indigenous Kids* Project provides a place where Indigenous kids under 5 and their parents can enjoy the learning experience. This is their first step on the education path.

Assist Indigenous Kids is implemented by *Beyond Empathy* and is part of their *Connections* Project, located in Moree, New South Wales. The Project helps to build awareness and understanding of the importance of education amongst young Indigenous mums through playgroups.

The playgroups provide an environment for kids that is supportive and encouraging of school and learning. This attitude is vital for their future well-being.

The *Assist Indigenous Kids* Project provides:

A playgroup where kids and parents experience learning

Art materials and supplies for kids

Trained facilitators who run the playgroups

Background Information

About Moree

Moree is a rural community with a population of 17,500 people. One quarter the population are Indigenous and many people live in poverty.

A National Issue

In his historic apology to the Stolen Generations, Australian Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, recognised the extreme importance of this issue by promising that “over the next five years, every Indigenous four-year-old would be enrolled in, and attending a proper early childhood education centre”.

What has the *Assist Indigenous Kids* Project already done successfully?

Built participants' skills, confidence and self-esteem

Increased family health and well-being

Increased community tolerance and understanding

Increased mums' understanding of child development

The *Assist Indigenous Kids* Project invites **you** to be a part of keeping our Prime Minister's educational promise. Check out the next page for how to start your action...

***Stand Up!* for this School Aid Project**

Step 1

Discuss the project with friends and get a teacher on board

Step 2

Register your school group on the School Aid website

Step 3

Browse the Resources section on the School Aid website and use them to help you plan, implement and keep track of your action

Follow these steps to *Shake It Up!*

Step 1

Sign in to create a profile for your group

Step 2

Keep your group profile updated after every group meeting and inspire other groups around Australia with your progress

Step 3

Check out what other schools are doing

Step 4

Create a film of your action and send it to School Aid for the chance for it to be showcased on the website!

Step 5

Send money raised (and any materials produced for the project) to School Aid

Step 6

School Aid will give feedback on each of the Projects via our website as they progress

Contact School Aid at admin@schoolaid.org.au if you need any help