

# Communities for Children FP Brimbank, VIC Program Overview 2020 - 2021



*everyone's family*



Brimbank children are safe and thriving in healthy families and participating in a vibrant, diverse and welcoming community.

## Priority areas

- **Families have strong relationships.**  
*Brimbank families are supported in their parenting role to grow and respond to their child's development.*
- **Brimbank Pre-schoolers learn through quality play experiences.**  
*Local Early Years programs and opportunities are accessible to a wide range of families and services have the capacity to engage vulnerable families.*
- **Brimbank children are active learners.**  
*Brimbank families, early years services and schools work together to ensure children have the best possible start to school.*
- **Dynamic Young Citizens of Brimbank.**  
*Children growing up in Brimbank are provided with opportunities to participate in the local community.*

**Communities for Children Facilitating Partner (CfC FP) is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS). The CfC FP initiative takes a place-based and 'whole of community' approach to facilitate the delivery of a range of services designed to improve outcomes for children aged 0 to 12 years old and their families.**

The Smith Family is the Facilitating Partner of the CfC FP initiative in Brimbank and covers the following suburbs:

- Albion
- Ardeer
- Cairnlea
- Deer Park
- Derrimut
- St Albans
- Sunshine (inc Sunshine North and Sunshine West)
- Sydenham

There are 9 activities funded by the Brimbank CfC FP for 2020 – 2021.

**Community Partners are funded to deliver services within the Brimbank CfC FP site for children aged from birth to 12 years and their families.**

## **Abecedarian Supported Playgroups**

The Abecedarian Approach is an evidence-based program recognised by the Australian Institute of Family Studies and is delivered through our community partners' supported playgroups.

## **Polynesian Playgroups**

Two Abecedarian Approach (3A) supported playgroups are delivered each week during school terms for parents/carers and their children aged 0-5 years from a Pacific Islander background. The Wednesday playgroup is at the Stevensville PS Hub, and the Friday playgroup is at the Sydenham Children's Hub.

The playgroup families celebrate their Pacific Islander culture through singing and dancing. Information sessions are included each term. Topics include dental hygiene, nutrition, active play, accessing kindergarten programs and Maternal Child Health Services.

**Community Partner:** The Pasefika Hub

**Service delivery area:** Sydenham Children's Hub (7 Community Hub, Sydenham) and Stevensville Primary School (52 Kings Rd, St Albans)

**Eligibility:** Parents/ carers and their children aged 0-5 years from a Pacific Islander background living in the Brimbank CfC FP area

**Contact:** Taitai Talapai, 0405 370 477 or Pauline Talapai, 0458 579 991 on [thepasefikahub@optusnet.com](mailto:thepasefikahub@optusnet.com)

## **Vietnamese Supported Playgroups**

Three Abecedarian Approach (3A) supported playgroups run during the school terms for parents/carers and their children aged 0-5 years from a Vietnamese background. Playgroup facilitators will use the 3A strategies to encourage families to have more interactions with their child which support their child's language, social, emotion and cognitive development.

Each term guest speakers visit the playgroups and families are supported to access other local services; including Maternal Child Health and Kindergarten Programs.

**Community Partner:** Australian Vietnamese Women's Association

**Service delivery area:** St Albans Heights Primary School Community Hub, Good Shepherd Community House (St Albans) and Duke Street Community House (Sunshine)

**Eligibility:** Parents/ carers and their children aged 0-5 years from a Vietnamese background living in the Brimbank CfC FP area

**Contact:** Tina Vo, 0405 594 669, [tina.vo@avwa.org.au](mailto:tina.vo@avwa.org.au)

## **Building Blocks**

The Abecedarian Approach (3A) supported playgroup for young parents and their children runs weekly during school terms. Young pregnant women are also welcome to join. Each term guest speakers visit the playgroup and families participate in excursions. The playgroup provides individual support to young women who present with complex needs.

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**Community Partner:** Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand

**Service delivery area:** Good Shepherd Community House, St Albans

**Eligibility:** Brimbank young parents and their children aged 0-5 and pregnant young women

**Contact:** Debbie Flederis, 8312 8814/ 0414 550 213 [Debbie.Flederis@goodshep.org.au](mailto:Debbie.Flederis@goodshep.org.au)



## Empowering families in Diverse Communities

Empowering Families in Diverse Communities consists of three programs which are evidence based programs, recognised by the Australian Institute of Family Studies – Family Mentoring Program, Being a Parent and Learning Together.

### Family Mentoring Program

Bicultural Family Mentors provide support to families from a CALD background living in the Brimbank CfC FP area. The Bicultural Family Mentors assist families to access and use local family and children's services. Services include playgroups, Maternal and Child Health Services, Kindergarten, Schools, Early intervention Services, and Community Allied Health Services.

Bicultural Family Mentors also provide support to family and children services. This support

increases the capacity of family and children services staff to engage and work with families from a CALD background.

### Empowering Parents Empowering Communities

Local parents are trained to run the '**Being a Parent**' parenting program within their own communities. The program aims to help parents develop positive communication and parenting skills, and to encourage parents to be mindful of how their words and actions can impact on children's wellbeing.

### Learning Together Parent and Child English Literacy Program

The Learning Together program combines three integrated core components:

- Foundation Skills course for parents which enables them to improve their English Language skills.
- An early Learning and Care program is provided to the children whilst parents participate in the Foundation Skills course.
- Supported playgroup for the parents undertaking the Foundation Skills course and their children to further develop their English language and literacy skills through play and social interaction.

**Community Partner:** VICSEG New Futures

**Service delivery area:** Outreach in various locations within the Brimbank CfC FP area

**Eligibility:** Parents/ carers with children aged 0-12 years from a CALD background living in the Brimbank CfC FP area

**Contact:** Kirsten MacKenzie, 0427 437 324  
[kmackenzie@vicsegnewfutures.org.au](mailto:kmackenzie@vicsegnewfutures.org.au)

### Specialist Group Work Program

Primary school children presenting with challenging behaviours and at risk of disengaging from school and/or have a history of family violence can participate in a therapeutic group program. Seven groups are delivered each year in primary schools located in the Brimbank CfC FP area. From the seven programs delivered, three are evidence based programs recognised by the Australian Institute of Family Studies.

The three evidence based programs are ***Feelings is Thinking, Drumbeat and Secret Agent Society***.

***Feelings is Thinking*** aims to create a safe environment for children to understand, express and manage their strong emotions. ***Drumbeat*** is a music program focused on exploring healthy, supportive relationships, emphasising teamwork and cooperation. ***Secret Agent Society*** uses espionage-themed games and activities to help children improve their social and emotional resilience.

Individual meetings are offered to parents/carers of children participating in the groups post-session.

Professional support is provided in the primary schools where groups are being delivered and to external welfare service providers working with children and their families in Brimbank.

**Community Partner:** The Royal Children's Hospital Foundation

**Service delivery area:** Groups are delivered in Primary Schools and local welfare agencies in the Brimbank CfC FP area

**Eligibility:** Children aged 5 - 12 years living in or attending primary schools in the Brimbank CfC FP area

**Contact:** Tara Pavlidis, 9345 4877,  
[Tara.Pavlidis@rch.org.au](mailto:Tara.Pavlidis@rch.org.au)

### Lingo Bingo

Qualified Speech Pathologists run speech therapy groups for children identified as having a speech delay. The speech therapy groups are for children transitioning to school the following year.

The programs offered are ***Leap into Language, Sounds and Stories and Cool-4-School***.

Participating children are supported with their school transition with a range of resources. Resources include an individual progress report and strategies. These strategies assist school staff and parents to further enhance the child's transition to school.

Secondary consultation is provided to school staff for children who have participated in the Lingo Bingo activity.

**Community Partner:** IPC Health

**Service delivery area:** IPC Health in Sunshine. Outreach visits will occur on an individual needs basis.

**Eligibility:** Children starting primary school in 2020 living in the Brimbank CfC FP area

**Contact:** Anna Shield, 9313 5017,  
[Anna.Shield@ipchealth.com.au](mailto:Anna.Shield@ipchealth.com.au)

### Strong Community Means Happy Kids

Yarn Strong Sista's Foregrounding Anti-Bias Perspective in the Early Years program works with Early Childhood services to provide children in Brimbank with an increased awareness of diversity and inclusion.

Yarn Strong Sista will source and collate Educational Resources that reflect the diversity of the families and communities in the identified Early Childhood services and provide a tailored Anti-Bias Educational Resource Kit.

Mentoring will also be provided to staff working in the service on how to utilise the resources and allow children to gain an understanding of the diversity of their community.

**Community Partner:** Yarn Strong Sista

**Service delivery area:** Various locations in the Brimbank CfC FP area

**Eligibility:** Childcare and Kindergartens in the Brimbank CfC FP area

**Contact:** Sharon Brooke, 9338 3492, [sharon@yarnstrongsista.com](mailto:sharon@yarnstrongsista.com) or Annette Sax, 0423 262 774 [annette@yarnstrongsista.com](mailto:annette@yarnstrongsista.com)

### Brimbank Playsteps

This activity is an evidence-based program for families and children (0-4 years). Playsteps is a parent and child play-based program helping parents to strengthen their relationship and interactions with their child while learning practical parenting skills and building local support networks.

Two Playsteps programs will be delivered for parents and carers with children aged 0-4. The groups will run for 8 weeks and sessions are two hours each.

**Community Partner:** Tweddle Child & Family Health Service.

**Service delivery area:** Sunshine

**Eligibility:** Parents/ carers and their children aged 0-4 years living in the Brimbank CfC FP area

**Contact:** Liz Dullard, (03) 9689 1577, [liz.dullard@tweddle.org.au](mailto:liz.dullard@tweddle.org.au)

### Parent Child Mother Goose Programs (P-CMG) and Additional Parenting Support

The Parent-Child Mother Goose (P-CMG) is an evidence based program which supports the development of secure parent-child attachment through using rhymes, songs, and stories together. The activity will deliver an infant program (children aged 0-2) and a toddler program (children aged 2-5). While the structure is the same for both programs, sessions vary according to the different developmental needs of toddlers and infants. The groups run weekly during school terms.

Additional parenting support are also available to participating parents/ carers outside of the P-CMG sessions.

**Community Partner:** Melbourne City Mission

**Service delivery area:** Sunshine

**Eligibility:** Parents/ carers and their children aged 0-4 years living in the Brimbank CfC FP area

**Contact:** Sally Richter, 0437 943 588, [srichter@mcm.org.au](mailto:srichter@mcm.org.au)

### Contact Us

**Jane Chia – Project Manager**

E: [jane.chia@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:jane.chia@thesmithfamily.com.au)

M: 0468 521 300

**Ailsa Gibson-Sheridan – Project Officer**

E: [ailsa.gibsonsheridan@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:ailsa.gibsonsheridan@thesmithfamily.com.au)

M: 0435 214 446

**Michelle Parmenter – Project Officer**

E: [michelle.parmenter@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:michelle.parmenter@thesmithfamily.com.au)

M: 0447 675 994