

MEDIA RELEASE

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Royalties for Regions Funds LEAF Training Package

Members of the award winning Linking Education and Families (LEAF) program steering group are jumping for joy after receiving news that an application to the Royalties for Regions scheme has been successful in securing funds for a LEAF multimedia training package.

The LEAF program is a school based program that caters for families with children aged 0-4 years. The program aims to assist children in the transition to school as well as raising parental awareness of the importance of the early years. The program is currently running at South Bunbury Primary School, Bunbury Primary, Withers Primary, and primary schools at Collie and Yarloop.

Parents enjoy Play Cafes because they provide a great family introduction to Kindy. They also appreciate the opportunity to interact with other mums and dads and to access lots of useful early childhood information.

Children love Play Cafes. They play and learn through interactive activities such as play-dough, painting, stories and rhyme, cutting, gluing, drawing, singing, throwing balls and bean bags, music, marching, printing animal tracks, and using finger puppets. They also practice their social skills such as sharing and taking turns while enjoying indoor and outdoor activities.

Play Cafes also provide opportunities for families to regularly interact with each other, the school Kindergarten teacher and other visiting guests eg community child health nurse, dietitian and speech pathologist.

There is a lot of interest from schools in the region who would like to develop more links with the community. A self learning Linking Education And Families training package will help make this a reality providing easily accessible links to the program, research links and a wide variety of 'early years' information. This will assist primary schools who have an interest in delivering the program. It will also help them to develop partnerships between the school and the community.

The LEAF program is founded on exemplary partnerships between the Department of Education, the Western Australian Country Health Service-SW, the Department for Communities, Investing In Our Youth Inc, Local Government Authorities, and the South West Development Commission.

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