

It Takes A Village PLAY2LEARN

Newly arrived humanitarian migrant families and their children often find themselves isolated and struggling to transition into the Tasmanian community. Our It Takes a Village Multicultural Play2Learn supports these families and helps them settle into their new life in Australia.



Photo: Robert McKechnie/Save the Children

The 'It Takes a Village Multicultural Supported Play2Learn' program started in 2011 in response to a lack of services to support newly arrived migrant and refugee families with children aged 0–5 years.

It Takes a Village operates weekly at the Glenorchy Primary School. Transport to the program can be offered to new families and those who struggle to get there by their own means.

An Early Childhood worker, a Bicultural Early Childhood Assistant and a Family Support Worker provide children with fun and educational activities. Parents are provided with advice, skills, links and referrals to other community services.

Guest speakers attend the group to offer information on topics based on the needs of the current families.

All families with children aged 0–5 years are welcome.

Some positive outcomes include:

- Children and their parents are more prepared when they go to school for the first time;
- Parents are less isolated and are able to meet other families in similar circumstances;
- Families gain support to access services they need.

Why it is important:

- Engages socially isolated families and their children;
- Provides quality play and early learning activities for children aged 0–5 years;
- Increases parents' confidence to support their children's transition into the Australian education system;
- Connects families to each other and their local communities.
- Since the program started, Save the Children has worked with more than 200 families from a wide variety of countries and language groups.

At a glance:

Established:	2011
Target:	Families with refugee backgrounds during their first 5 years of settlement
Current Donor:	Funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Visit dss.gov.au for more information.
Location:	Glenorchy
Referrals:	Child health and adolescent parenting service, schools, humanitarian and settlement service providers.