BELONGING AND CONNECTION: BUILDING INCLUSION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITY 0-8 YEARS IN THE TWEED REGION

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Belonging and connection are not only important for wellbeing but also for understanding inclusion and exclusion. However, little is known about the ways that young children with cognitive disability connect with places and people, or about their perspectives on belonging, particularly within regional communities.

This project aims to increase inclusion for children with disability 0 – 8 in their communities in the NSW Tweed Valley region by using capacity development approaches to respond to the assets and strengths identified by children and families.

This project will take a participatory research approach and be conducted in three phases:

- Phase one will focus on participatory research with children and families and the development of collaborative approaches with key stakeholders.
- Phase two will involve the analysis of data, and using the emerging research outcomes to work collaboratively with key individuals and groups to further develop capacity building networks and strategies.
- Phase three will include the collective development of a framework for community capacity building and focused development activities with individuals and groups.

At the end of the first year, a framework for action will be in place which is built from the lived experience of children and families and the collaborative efforts of community stakeholders.

PROJECT TIMEFRAME

August 2012 – August 2013

PROJECT PARTNER

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RESEARCH TEAM

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This project is funded by a grant from the NSW Government Family and Community Services for Ageing, Disability and Home Care