

Make it count with Indigenous Learners Community Two-way teaching approaches Corrie Baxter - Biography

Corrie Baxter is the Numeracy Curriculum Leader at Yiyili Aboriginal Community School in remote northern WA. She received her Bachelor of Education from the University of Tasmania in 2008 and taught at Trinity College in Tasmania in 2009. In 2010, Corrie was ready to pursue her interest in teaching EAL/D students (and move to a warmer climate) so she relocated to Yiyili Community where she has taught for 4 years. Corrie is currently in her third year in the role of Numeracy Curriculum Leader.

In this role, Corrie has worked with teacher and Aboriginal Education Worker (AEW) colleagues to improve the mathematics outcomes of all students across the school. She has worked closely with AEWs at Yiyili School to flesh out the maths language within a topic before introducing this to the students. This includes language that is specific to maths and non-specific maths language that, if not translated, taught and practised effectively, can cause misconceptions for home language speakers. Through this, the AEWs at Yiyili have made considerable progress in their own teaching practice, and have recently presented their journey to fellow AEWs and teachers from across WA at conferences held in Fitzroy Crossing, Broome and Perth. This work has been recognised as an effective model for community schools across the Kimberley and Pilbara region, where majority (commonly 100%) of students attending these schools speak a number of 'home languages' (Kriol, traditional languages and Aboriginal English) before learning Standard Australian English at school.

In addition to her role as Numeracy Curriculum Leader and classroom teacher, Corrie has volunteered her time to present at state-wide and national conferences including the annual AISWA conference in Broome WA and the 2012 AAMT *Numeracy, mathematics and Indigenous learners' national conference*. Corrie is supported by mentors Kaye Treacy and Kim McHugh, and meets with other Numeracy Curriculum Leaders from the Aboriginal Independent Community Schools (AICS) of WA once a term to reflect and critically analyse personal practice and the effectiveness of their whole school approach to mathematics.

Corrie works with teachers across all years (K-10) at Yiyili School, and has had the opportunity to witness some excellent examples of team teaching between the teacher and AEW. It is Corrie's privilege to empower AEWs and teachers to continue developing these practices and share effective approaches for EAL/D mathematics teaching with educators within and beyond the AICS network.