

Canberra's first childcare centre to teach Japanese

A new language program teaching 3 to 5-year-old children about Japanese language and culture will be introduced next year at the Pinocchio Early Learning Centre in Dickson.

Leanne Gundry, who created the Japanese language program called 'Learning Adventures', said the ACT Government's Micro-Credit Program allowed her to expand her business by creating a professional website.

"The \$3000 micro-credit loan will mean that I can create a professional website to promote my program," Leanne said.

"The Learning Adventures program helps young children learn Japanese and educates them about the culture through fun activities and games.

"We live in a multicultural society in an increasingly globalised world and it's really important for children to learn about other languages and cultures, and improve their literacy and numeracy skills.



Learning Adventures students having fun dressing up in Japanese kimonos.

"I also believe that children need to feel comfortable with diversity, are open to life experiences when interacting with other cultures, and are open-minded about different cultural traditions.

"My program uses music, dance, arts and crafts, cooking and traditional Japanese games, as well as dressing up in kimonos. It's a great way to engage the children and makes learning fun.



"Now that I can afford to create my own website, I'll be able to focus my energies on other important steps, which will put me in the best possible place to develop a sustainable business for the long term."

The micro-credit program offers Canberra women on low incomes interest free loans of up to \$3000 to help them establish or expand their business.

Women who are interested in applying for a loan can contact the Lighthouse Business Innovation Centre on 6163 8300 or visit www.brilliantidea.com.au

For more information about Learning Adventures Japanese program phone 0412 990 202 or email info@learningadventures.com.au or phone Pinocchio Early Learning Centre on 6162 1131