

Supporting Play and Intergenerational  
Relationships with Indigenous Tradition

# SPIRIT Project

Together, we seek bold solutions to  
reclaim strong families and strong,  
autonomous Indigenous communities.

[familyspiritprogram.org](http://familyspiritprogram.org)



## ABOUT THE PROJECT

Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health is honored to be a part of the LEGO Foundation's *Build a World of Play Challenge* to support child development worldwide. Funding provided through this challenge will support the international sharing of the Family Spirit program as well as the creation of intergenerational play spaces designed by and for Indigenous communities across the U.S., Canada, Australia, and Aotearoa (New Zealand).

[Learn more about the challenge.](#)

## FAMILY SPIRIT PROGRAM

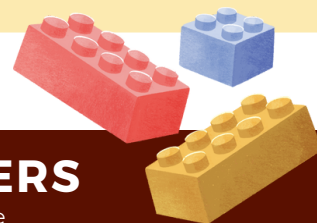
Family Spirit is a home visiting program for children 0-5 delivered by Indigenous paraprofessionals as an Indigenous solution to supporting caregivers during pregnancy and early childhood. For almost 30 years, it has been proven to promote positive parenting, mental wellbeing, and children's positive developmental trajectories. Family Spirit is designed to strengthen connections to family, culture, and heritage to help families thrive and promote healing within communities.

Through the Build a World of Play project, Family Spirit will be adapted for the unique contexts, strengths, and goals of global Indigenous communities, generating new relationships and shared learning across the world.



## AT A GLANCE

- **4 countries:** Aotearoa (New Zealand), Australia, Canada & United States
- **23 current partners**
- **~20 new home visiting sites**
- New intergenerational, nature-based **playspaces**
- **5 years** of project funding
- Goal of **20,000 children** and **12,000 caregivers** to be served



## OUR PARTNERS

- Akeyulerre Healing Centre
- Batchelor Institute
- Children's Ground
- Coconino County Health and Human Services Healthy Families Program
- Cowichan Tribes
- First 2000 Days
- First Nations Health Authority
- Fort Defiance Office, Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health
- Lil'wat First Nation
- Nez Perce Tribe- Nimiipuu Health Clinic
- Northern Arapaho Tribe - Wind River Family & Community Healthcare
- Onkwehon:we Midwives Collective
- Pertame Ngetya Untya (Pertame Language Nest)
- Round Valley Indian Health Center
- Skowkale First Nations
- Splatsin
- Tawrang Nisgaa' Old Masset
- Te Hou Ora Whānau Services
- Te Rōpū Rangahau Hauora a Eru Pōmare, University of Otago
- Toi Matarua
- Tu Kotahi Māori Asthma Trust & Kōkiri Marae
- Urban Baby Beginnings
- Wabanaki Home Visiting and Wabanaki Families