Cash splashed for kids

Natalie Filmer

TWELVE hundred dollars is a lot of money in anyone's language, but even more so for Doncaster East's not-for-profit Kimmba Bilingual Learning association. The early learning centre has put a $1200 grant from the Telstra Kids Fund towards an interactive whiteboard for its Mandarin-speaking group, which allows children to put parts of a puzzle together to create Chinese characters. Kimmba director Marisha Theeboom welcomed the grant as a way of helping the association to teach pre-school and early primary children a foreign language.

"We really, really appreciate the grant," Ms Theeboom said.

"Technology is forever changing and we run very innovative and creative lessons so we want to use the latest technology with young children. The interactive whiteboard combines visual stimulation with sound so the children are using all of their gross motor skills to enhance their knowledge."

Ms Theeboom said teaching children a different language early in life also taught them that people may be different to them and encouraged them to be open-minded.