

Play is the key way children learn about themselves, others and the world they live in. It is essential to their learning, development, health, and physical, mental and social well-being – and it's FUN! Play provides the building blocks to be ready for school.



Box Play

Box play is an easy activity at playgroup that engages children of all ages.

Did you know?

Cardboard box creations, big and small, provide lots of occasions for children to problem solve together, to share, and develop their social skills.

Older children help younger children reach and move boxes around. This builds awareness of the needs of others and showing care by helping. These skills are important to social competence and making friends.

Add language

Encourage interaction by making comments which start or extend conversations. Ask occasional questions that match the language level of the children. Make the questions open ended to encourage explanations or detailed answers.

Other development

Boxes provide perfect props for pretend play. Children get to act out different roles e.g. race car driver or princess in the castle. Boxes can be used for doll's beds or ovens. Big boxes can be used as tunnels or caves.

Boxes can be used as they are, or be painted, drawn on, cut, or stuck together. The possibilities are endless and children will be developing and practicing their fine motor skills as they go.



Box play builds creativity, imagination and resourcefulness.

Variations

Lots of boxes at playgroup or a party can add fun to pretend play. Try a castle for knights and princesses out of a fridge box, or rev up the movie party with drive in cars. The children could even make their own city out of boxes!

Some simple dress up items can add to the play theme e.g. a piece of material can become a knight's cape, a princess' dress, or a curtain or door for the house.

- Playgroup WA has a treasure trove of play activities for babies, toddlers and 3-5 year olds, for home and playgroup. These play activities cover a balanced diet of play across sensory, movement, language and thinking skill areas.

You can find them at www.playgroupwa.com.au/playideas or visit www.facebook.com/playgroupwa