Playfully preparing for school

PLAYGROUP

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.

Making Books

Book making is a great playgroup activity, providing fun opportunities for language and fine motor development.

Did you know?

Children are more likely to engage with a book they have made themselves. Making books together helps develop an appreciation of books. Feeling proud of their own creation motivates children to engage with books more often.

Language and other development

After a special event children can make a book together to share and retell their experiences. Help the children to choose pictures and stick them in order. Ask the children to retell what happened and write down what they say in their words under the picture. Don't forget the book title and authors names!

Variations

Stapling together some A4 sheets of paper make good size books for toddlers to stick pictures or draw in. This could be a regular activity to do with a different focus for the book each time e.g. Books about food, animals, colours, shapes, numbers.

Children can make "hotdog" books from A3 sheets of paper. Find the template and folding instructions at http://www. better-beginnings.com.au/resources/books-go-template

If you have access to a colour photocopier (local libraries usually have public access to these) these books can be copied. Children can place one copy in the playgroup library and take their original book home to share.

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**

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WA (Inc)