

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.



Sharing books

Babies enjoy books with clear pictures and photos as well as textures to feel.

Did you know?

Reading books to babies from birth is a great bonding activity and introduces your child to language.

Board books are ideal for babies. They are long lasting, smaller for travel and the pages are easier to turn.

Book sharing promotes joint attention with both baby and adult engaged in the same book. Sitting so you can see your baby's face and the book means you can talk about what your baby is focused on, on the page.

Add language

Providing the words that go with what your baby is looking at helps you to follow their interests. Babies are more likely to learn the words if they hear the words that match what they are focused on.

Other development

Simple pictures help your baby link real world objects to images on the page. This helps your baby learn that pictures are symbols of real things. Babies first recognise photographs, then simple clear illustrations. This is the start of literacy!

Variations

You could visit your local library's rhyme or story time sessions. Check with your local council for session times. Sometimes babies will enjoy time alone looking through books with simple clear pictures.



- 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