

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.



Puppets

Children will love the opportunities puppets provide to role play different scenes and ideas.

Did you know?

Finger puppets help children develop dexterity (moving fingers separately and with control).

Add language

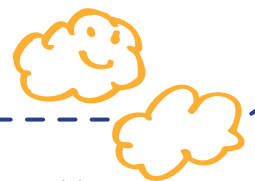
Puppets can be helpful in giving children more confidence in speaking. Puppet plays give children practise at telling simple stories and using their 'story' voice. These are important skills for preparing for school.

Other development

Puppets give opportunities to talk about feelings, explore behaviour, consequences and a variety of emotion words e.g. furious, jealous, anxious, frightened, excited, nervous, surprised (this is "emotion coaching"). This helps children learn about emotions and develops their ability to manage their own feelings, behaviour and activity levels (this is called "self-regulation"). Self-regulation is a critical component of appropriate social and emotional skills. Introducing several characters will make play themes more complex and further develop social skills.

Variations

Making your own puppet theatre is a great way for your child to extend their imagination, interact with others and share their creations with family and friends. Your local white goods shop can be a good source of large cardboard boxes perfect for this activity. Making their own puppets and props helps express creativity and develops fine motor skills



- 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