

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

**Puppets are a great way to encourage your toddler's imaginary play.**

### Did you know?

Puppets are a great tool for learning how to take turns and develop early social skills.

### Add language

Puppet play can show your toddler to how conversations work and taking turns to speak.

Puppets are great for learning and talking about feelings.

By acting out different characters in different settings you can use words to describe feelings, behaviour and consequences e.g. "He is so excited. He's jumping around. Uh oh! He knocked over the glass. Now he's sad. Oh dear. He cleans up the mess. It's all good."

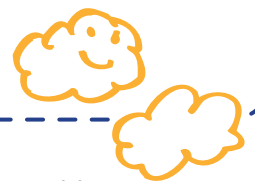
### Other development

The ability to pretend shows a big step in the development of thinking skills and means children are understanding symbols; this is important in developing literacy and numeracy skills.

Following your child's lead and letting them be the "director" helps develop their own ideas and strengthen their ability to make connections between experiences in their world.

### Variations

Puppets can be used to act out favourite stories or rhymes. Try making your own puppets from socks or gloves (hand puppets), pipe cleaners (finger puppets) and other materials. Your toddler will love helping you decorate their own puppet! This also helps develop their 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](http://www.playgroupwa.com.au/playideas) or visit [www.facebook.com/playgroupwa](https://www.facebook.com/playgroupwa)