

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.



## More fun with books

It is helpful to have a range of books at playgroup for children to share or look through on their own. Include a variety of books such as simple picture books for babies, story books, and information books.

### Did you know?

Children sharing books together at playgroup can stimulate new interests.

One child's enthusiasm for a book can capture other children's attention and imagination. This is great for fostering children's social skills and broadening their interests.

### Other development

Sharing books at playgroup can be a quiet, calming activity after more active fun.

Storytelling at playgroup gives all the children the structure and language patterns that form the building blocks for reading and writing.

Books at different levels will appeal to children of different ages.



### Variations

Check if your local library has "big books" that are perfect for reading to groups. You may even be able to get the Children's Librarian from your local library or school to visit your playgroup for a special story time session.

You could get everyone at playgroup to talk about their favourite children's book. Take a vote on the top five favourite books and feature them at playgroup.

Props such as puppets or dress ups can be used to bring stories to life. Children enjoy acting out stories.

A dress up day where everyone comes as their favourite book character is a fun special event for playgroup.

📖 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)