

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.



## Water play

Water play at playgroup is a great warm weather activity and is suitable across age groups.

### Did you know?

Children learn lots of early science and maths concepts during water play.

### Add language

When playing with younger playgroup members, using words to describe their actions adds language to what they are interested in e.g. "Splash... Splash... Tip!"

### Other development

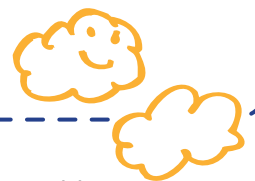
For older children, water can provide fun opportunities for learning concepts such as size and volume. Which cup holds more? Collecting a variety of objects and testing which ones sink or float is another fun game to develop these skills.

### Variations

Water tables at playgroup are a great idea. They can be used for water play but also messy play and rice or other sensory play. There are lots of different things you can do with water to give children different learning experiences. Try adding colour to the water, or ice blocks to talk about temperature. Add water creatures one week then cups and funnels another. Less is sometimes more; try adding toys on just one theme rather than putting all the toys in every week.

### Safety

Supervision is essential at all times. Remember to empty out water at the end of the activity.



- 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)