

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.



## Playing house

A “home corner” at playgroup is a great way for children of all ages to learn social skills and practise them with other children.

### Did you know?

Household items from the different cultures of families at your playgroup can help all children feel they belong. Children develop and express their unique identity when using and sharing the items. Other children can then learn about the different cultures in their community.

### Add language

Playing with other children provides lots of opportunities for different aged children to hear and use a variety of language. Younger children get to hear and learn from the older children. Older children will modify their talking for very young children.

### Other development

Watch and help out if needed. However, it is valuable for the children to have a chance to choose the story, agree on the roles and work out disagreements for themselves. These are valuable problem solving and social skills.

### Variations

You can change the home corner to create new interest and a chance to act out different stories. You could move the home corner furniture around or change the props. Put something surprising in the home corner bed or cupboard. This makes something interesting for the children to discover, think and talk about.



- 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)