

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

Playing house helps toddlers try out and practise social skills.

### Did you know?

Both boys and girls love copying adults and everyday routines they have been watching. This is how they try out what they have been learning about how their world works!

### Add language

When playing house with your toddler it is helpful to wait for them to start talking. When they do, respond with short phrases only one or two words more than they used e.g. your toddler says “cup”, you could say “yes, red cup”.

Keep the conversation going with short comments and occasional questions. The more turns they take in conversations, the more their language grows!

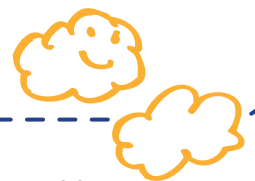
### Variations

Sometimes toddlers will use the real objects to play with e.g. sweeping actions with your broom. As they develop they will love to use toy versions of household objects.

Sometimes your toddler will want you to join in their play and sometimes they will want to play alone and use their dolls or stuffed toys as family and friends.

### Safety

Use playing house time to talk about safety e.g. not touching hot things like the real kettle/toaster etc.



- 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)