

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.



Songs through the day

Having set songs at certain times at playgroup helps children anticipate routines and helps to get them ready to go on to the next activity.

Did you know?

Using songs for different activity times at playgroup can help get the children's attention. It lets them know the group is about to start another activity e.g. "tick tick tick tick, listen to my little clock, tick tick tick tick, now it's time to stop!" at the end of free playtime, "Wash our Dirty Hands" at the end of outdoor play, and a regular goodbye song at the end of playgroup.

Add language

Singing simple instructions and repeating them can help get children's attention and helps them follow the instruction. It makes it easier for young children to follow when we sing slowly at a higher pitch and then repeat.

Other development

"Hello" songs which include the children's names build their sense of self and belonging. Adding basic social questions to the song can teach children positive social skills e.g.

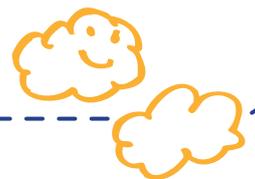


"Where is Amelia? Where is Amelia? There she is. There she is. How are you today friend? (pause and wait for any response, verbal or non-verbal) Happy day. Happy day."

Variations

Children may enjoy a game of singing during playgroup e.g. singing about what we are doing, asking questions and answering with a song during a craft activity or snack time.

Using a parachute for song time can be a fun way to draw children together at the end of 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 or visit www.facebook.com/playgroupwa