

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.



Celebrations

Cultural celebrations and festivals are a great way to develop positive cultural identity, and understanding of and respect for differences. This is helpful in developing social and emotional skills.

Did you know?

Talking with families at playgroup about their own cultural celebrations and traditions, and looking at ways of incorporating them into playgroup activities helps everyone feel welcome, included and respected.

Add language

You could talk about ways different families may celebrate the same event or about different types of celebrations in other cultures e.g. different times and ways of celebrating New Year. It can be fun to learn how different languages say things like “Happy Birthday”.

Other development

Having some props associated with different celebrations is useful to provide children with opportunities to act out different events and ways of celebrating in the wider world.

Incorporating drawing, painting, crafts or cooking associated with celebrations and festivals provides lots of opportunities for the children to work at their own level developing fine motor skills and early maths and science concepts.



Safety

Cooking is a great time to remind children about safety – being careful when things are hot or sharp. Supervision is needed.

It is important to be aware of any food allergies when choosing cooking activities or bringing food to playgroup. See the Playgroup Manual (available on the Playgroup WA website) for more information on allergies at 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