

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

Whilst toddlers are starting to pay attention to presents as well as wrapping paper their memory is also improving so that this is a wonderful opportunity to establish traditions and rituals around special occasions. Attitudes to giving and receiving and attitudes to family time, especially extended family can be shaped by what happens. Take time to think about what you want your children to remember.

### Did you know?

Family and cultural celebrations foster a sense of belonging. The ritual of lighting or blowing out candles, coming together for a special meal, or decorating are all traditions and ways of celebrating that your toddler can engage in and learn from.

### Add language

Taking pictures and making your own books of your family's celebrations gives you lots of opportunities for having conversations and building your toddler's language and memory skills.

Sharing picture books about familiar celebrations such as birthdays also provides a focus for having a conversation.



### Other development

Dancing to the music related to the celebration delights toddlers and is a fun way to develop body awareness and movement skills.

### Safety

Always supervise your toddler (celebrations may involve extra objects that can be safety hazards for toddlers e.g. candles, sparklers, easily reached small items).

- 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)