# Playfully preparing for school PLAYGROUP

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.

Summer play

As some playgroup venues close over summer, why not invite your playgroup families to meet in the great outdoors instead! A change in playgroup environment can stimulate new play ideas and be an exciting change.

### Did you know?

Children who play with others in nature have improved imagination and collaboration skills. They can swap ideas or inspire others with their creativity while making items out of natural objects.

## Add language

Try adding some new songs to your playgroup's music time that include things they've seen in their new surroundings e.g. "Five little ducks", "Three jellyfish", "Five little speckled frogs".

## Variations

The playgroup could decide to take some photos of their adventures which can be used later in the year to make into books or collages to use as prompts to help children remember what they did and share it with others.

## Safety

Playgroup

Remember to always supervise children, especially around water, and be sun smart when playing outdoors.

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

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