

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.



Painting

There are lots of ways to set up painting at playgroup to make it fun for all ages. Painting can be done inside or outside.

Did you know?

Children learn to wait, take turns, and share when painting with others. These are important social and emotional skills for development and helping children get ready for school.

Add language

Talk about what the children are doing, the colours and shapes in the painting. Pause and wait for children to tell you about their painting. Encourage them to tell each other about what they are painting.

Other development

Encourage the older children to help set up and pack away. This gives them a sense of responsibility. It helps them to know the steps needed for the task. Learning simple routines and how to move on to the next activity are useful in getting ready for school. Noticing that colours change when they are mixed together builds early science concepts. Noticing patterns and shapes builds early maths concepts.

Variations

Turn painting into an adventure and go exploring outside. Encourage the children to collect leaves or ferns.



These can be painted and pressed onto paper to make all sorts of wonderful patterns and designs.

For another idea try putting paper in the bottom of a cardboard box. Then add blobs of paint and a golf ball. Children can have fun moving the box to see where the ball goes and make patterns on the paper.

Create individual items to take home or send to family members. You could also create one group artwork. Both are great ways to build a sense of pride and connection.

Safety

Non-toxic washable paint is best for playgroups.

- 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