

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

While painting, your toddler is developing their concentration, eye hand coordination and motor planning (they are planning what to do and how to do it).

### Did you know?

Your toddler is refining their hand grasping skills when painting with a paintbrush and learning to use each finger separately when they are finger painting.

Both skills are important for holding and controlling a pencil for later writing development.

### Add language

Talking about the paint colours helps to build your toddler's word knowledge and colour concepts. Talking about the way the paintbrush is moving e.g. up, down, across, around, is helping your toddler learn the words and concept of direction.

Making comments e.g. "I like those colours", pausing and waiting for your toddler to take a turn in the conversation helps build their language skills.

### Other development

Painting is a great way for your toddler to start expressing their creativity.

Toddlers are best with large pieces of paper so they have space to make big arm movements.



### Variations

Using paintbrushes and water outside on the concrete or bricks is a fun alternative to paint. Toddlers can watch as the water dries and their paintings disappear. Try a few of these different tools for a new painting experience: vegetables, stamps, sponges, rollers, or different brush sizes and shapes.

For a messy play experience, try adding some paint to shaving foam on a table or flat surface (that can be easily cleaned!) and let the play begin!

### Safety

Non-toxic, washable paint is the best for toddlers.

It may be worth checking the easel is stable before your child starts painting.



- 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)