

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.



Spring Play

Outdoors in springtime gives playgroups lots of activity options. Nature play requires little preparation or cost.

Did you know?

There is so much going on in the natural world during spring. Everything is growing, blooming and more active. Free play in nature inspires imagination and role play. This develops children's sense of identity, belonging and confidence.

Add language

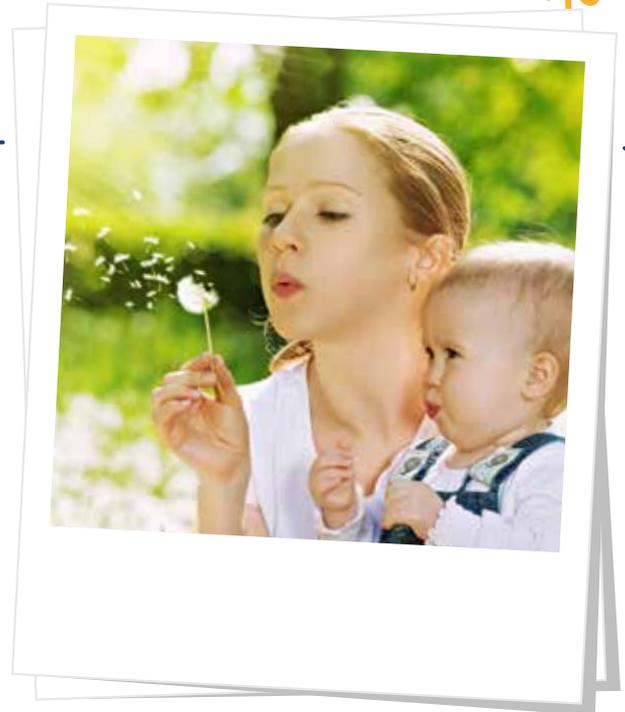
Encourage conversations with children to share what they are seeing, doing, feeling or discovering in the outdoor spring world. Give the children time and space to use their communication skills.

Other development

Unstructured, free play is important for children's development. Collect natural materials on a spring walk, bring them back to playgroup to:

- set up a nature table with groups of things collected e.g. flowers, rocks, sticks, bark, nuts, seeds, leaves etc.
- make "mini worlds" by creating collage pictures or sticking items in playdough
- press flowers in old, heavy books and check them in later weeks

These activities build fine motor skills, hand strength and precision which are needed for developing writing. They can also be used to build early maths concepts through grouping and comparing items.



Variations

Add some extra outdoor time to playgroup sessions. Take advantage of the amazing spring world - meet in a local park or nature reserve. You could plant some easy-care seeds like sunflowers or nasturtiums to brighten up your playgroup. Take a photo every week and make a little book. Talk about how it grew and changed over time. This can help develop science, maths and time concepts. It also builds early sequencing and literacy skills. Working together on a joint project builds a sense of belonging. This is important for developing social and emotional skills.

Safety

Always use sun protection when playing outside. Snakes may be more active so it's worth being watchful.

📌 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