

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

Spring-time – when the whole wide, blooming, cheeping, croaking, wriggling world is coming back to life and the sun is shining more – brings out the outdoor adventurer, discoverer and scientist in every toddler!

Did you know?

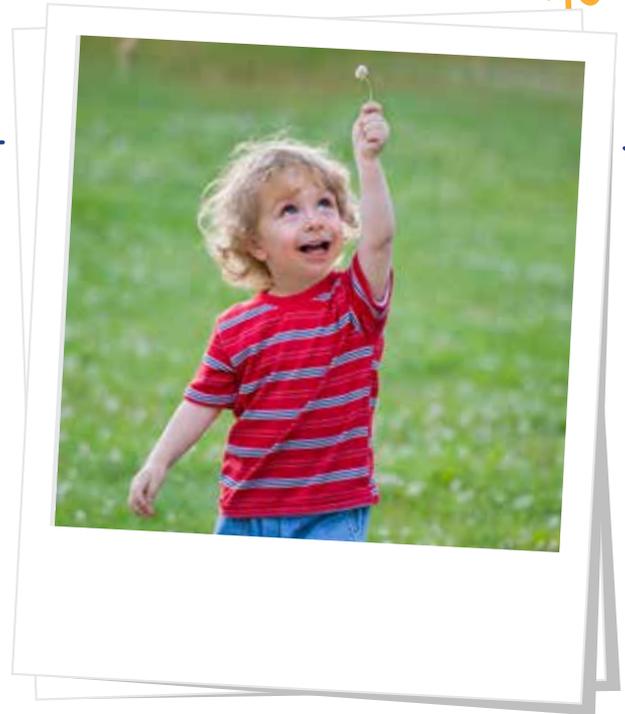
Spending more time outside results in healthier and more physically active children.

Add language

While out in the spring world, keep conversations going while you explore the great outdoors together. The more conversational turns a child has the stronger their language develops. Adding description words to naming words helps build your toddler's sentence length e.g. "soft petals" "spiky leaves" etc.

Other development

Science is about exploring, experimenting, observing, learning about nature and the world around us. Spring is the perfect time for this. You can use clear jars or bug catchers with your toddler to examine small creatures, talk about them and then set them free. Look for tadpoles together in ponds or creeks. Toddlers will love to get outside in spring with enough time and space to play, explore, test ideas, jump in puddles, run around trees, and play in the sand or mud. Toddlers attention and learning increases through spending more time in nature.



Being outside in spring helps toddlers build and strengthen their sense of identity and place. Toddlers can learn to show care and respect for the environment. This all helps develop their social and emotional skills.

Variations

Your toddler will be becoming more involved in imaginative play. Spring is a great time for them to enjoy making "small worlds" arranging natural items they have found in a tray or stuck into playdough. This activity builds both their fine motor skills and their creativity.

Safety

Use sun protection when playing outside. The warmer weather also means snakes are becoming more active – be wary and respectful of nature's creatures.

- 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