

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.



## Mark Making

Playgroup is perfect for children to be creative together. Individual and collective projects are fun to include in your time together and allow children to experiment with mark making in a playful way!

### Did you know?

Children will paint, draw or scribble longer when playing with others. This makes playgroup perfect for these activities and can often entice less interested 'artists' to join the fun.

### Add language

Asking open questions about the children's creations e.g. "Tell me about your picture." gives them opportunities to expand their own language.

### Early Maths and Science

Talking about colours, sizes, shapes, positions and directions in their pictures provides the language for early maths concepts. Mixing colours to create new colours or experimenting with different drawing materials creates early interest in science knowledge and skills.

### Other development

Creating a collective artwork together develops a sense of group identity. Seeing the variety of different ways each child approaches the task contributes to an understanding of individuality. This all builds the children's social and emotional skills. Working together with other children helps prepare them for joint activities at school.



Ideas for collective artworks could include using each child's hand print added together to create a picture such as a rainbow or Christmas tree; each child drawing a tree and sticking these up together to create a forest or bush scene; or making individual houses to create a town.

### Variations

"Painting" outside using just water and large paint brushes can be a fun summer activity especially if you have a fence, wall or concrete paving to use. Chalk drawings on pavements or fences can also inspire children's play and should be easily washed off.

### Safety

Keep babies and children safe by using non-toxic materials and supervision.

- 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)