# Playfully preparing for school

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.

Water play

Older children begin to explore ideas and learn about the world as they enjoy water play.

#### Did you know?

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Playing in puddles and creeks helps children understand their natural environment. Floating sticks and gum nuts, watching tadpoles and engaging with nature increases children's awareness of and concern for their environment.

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#### Add language

During water play you can talk about concepts such as

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volume and size e.g. shorter, taller or big, bigger, biggest. You could also talk about early science concepts such as water state e.g. ice, water, steam; and temperature e.g. cold, hot.

#### Variations

Puddle stomping is a fun way to get out and blow off steam with young children after being stuck indoors during the rain.

### Safety

Supervision is essential at all times. Remember to empty out water at the end of the activity.

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

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