

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.



## Block play

Block play can take on new forms as your child grows and develops, combining pretend play with more complicated building.

### Did you know?

Blocks provide opportunities for children to design, plan and build more and more complex structures to work in with their play e.g. building a farm, a house, a city or a fantasy world.

### Add language

Use language to comment on more technical aspects of the building design e.g. "That wide base should make a strong building", and ask a few questions that require thinking and reasoning e.g. "What will happen if ....", or "How will we join these parts together?".

### Other development

Smaller blocks and those that need to be clicked together need more finger strength and fine motor control. It's helpful to encourage children to both follow set instructions as well as invent their own creations.

Children are learning and testing maths and science concepts when working out the number of blocks needed and using size and shape concepts to build stable or unstable structures.



Building rows or towers of blocks following patterns e.g. red, blue, green, red, blue, green helps focus on position, order and direction. This helps develop key ideas needed for maths.

### Variations

Give your child other things to stack e.g. books, boxes, bean bags etc. Talk about how well they stack or if they aren't good for stacking.

- 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)

