

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

Playgroup provides wonderful opportunities for children of all ages to learn and cooperate through block play.

### Did you know?

Block play at playgroup gives children a chance to negotiate, plan and build things together or to share blocks for their own individual projects.

Working together helps build social and emotional skills, a sense of belonging, as well as coordination skills.

### Add language

Make comments on what children are building and ask occasional questions that need some thinking and reasoning by the older playgroup children. Including some toy people or animals with the blocks can encourage pretend play, with people and animals interacting with the structures that have been built.

### Other development

Providing the blocks and giving the children some space and time to work it out together gives them an opportunity to develop and practise their social and negotiation skills.

### Variations

Using boxes of different shapes and sizes can allow for some large scale block constructions, particularly if using packing boxes as blocks.



- 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)