

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.



Celebrations

Sharing family and cultural celebrations helps keep stories alive, pass on important information and gives occasions to start your own family traditions while your child learns more about their world.

Did you know?

Seasonal celebrations help children mark the passage of time.

Add language

Songs, folklore and dramatising celebration stories develops story language and structure.

Talking about celebrations helps with learning how to order things based on time. Try using specific language to help develop these time concepts e.g. "Your birthday is after Daddy's birthday", "Christmas Day is in four more sleeps", "In the morning we then at night we have the fireworks".

Other development

Children love to show they remember special times and can get involved in helping plan and participate in celebrations. This helps develop thinking and reasoning skills. Fine motor skills develop while making decorations or preparing food. Children have fun and learn about size, shape, position, colour and patterns while making decorations. Early maths and science knowledge is also being developed while measuring, mixing and shaping during cooking. Being included and 'helpful' develops your child's self-esteem, confidence and sense of belonging.



Variations

Books about familiar and unfamiliar celebrations are readily available at your local library and fun to share with your child. Look out for festivals and celebrations occurring in your community. Joining in with these events can help your child and family feel more connected to your community and helps children develop an understanding of and respect for differences.

Safety

Always supervise your child (celebrations may involve extra objects that can be safety hazards for young children e.g. candles, sparklers, easily reached small items).

📌 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

