

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.



Summer play

Toddlers are often natural explorers and very inquisitive. Use this to your advantage and explore the outdoors together to satisfy their curiosity and burn off some energy.

Did you know?

By taking time to share what you know about nature, toddlers will learn how to respect and care for their environment. Discovering small creatures together helps your toddler to be curious yet careful when interacting with animals and nature.

Add Language

The number and variety of words you use when you speak to your child directly influences the number and variety of words they can learn. While discovering and observing insects and animals, talk with your toddler about where they live, what they eat, etc. Pause and wait for your child to start a conversation by them pointing or making a comment.

Variations

Try going on a “summer safari” and see what animals and plants you find depending on where you live. This could include looking out for dolphins or finding shells at the beach, or seeing what animals come out in the warmer months such as dragonflies. Take some magnifying glasses or binoculars with you on your adventure for even more fun!

Safety

Remember to use sun protection when exploring the outdoors, especially in summer. The warmer months also encourage snakes to be more active, so be careful and respectful of the environment.



- 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