

# Partners in Play Conference

## The Importance of Play at Supported Playgroups

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The national Supported Playgroup Program is funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs





**“Life must be lived as Play” Plato**  
**(Greek Philosopher & Mathematician 427-347 BCE)**



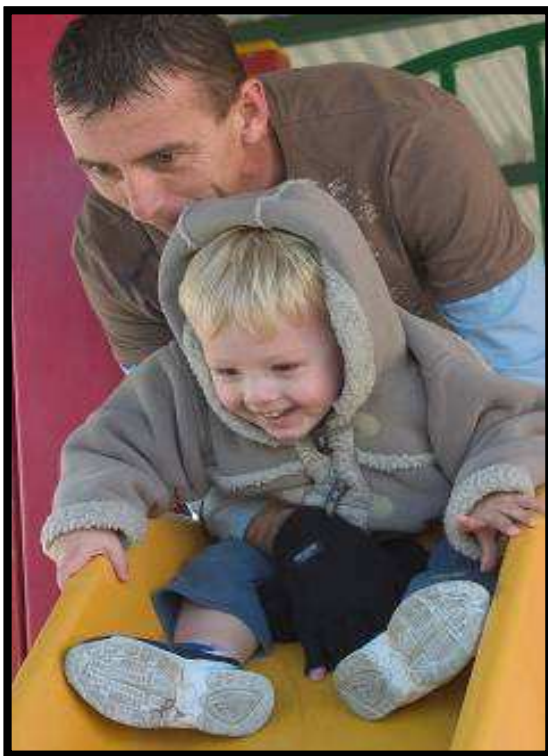
# Why the Supported Playgroups model ?

Intensive  
Supported  
Playgroups

Locational  
Supported  
Playgroups

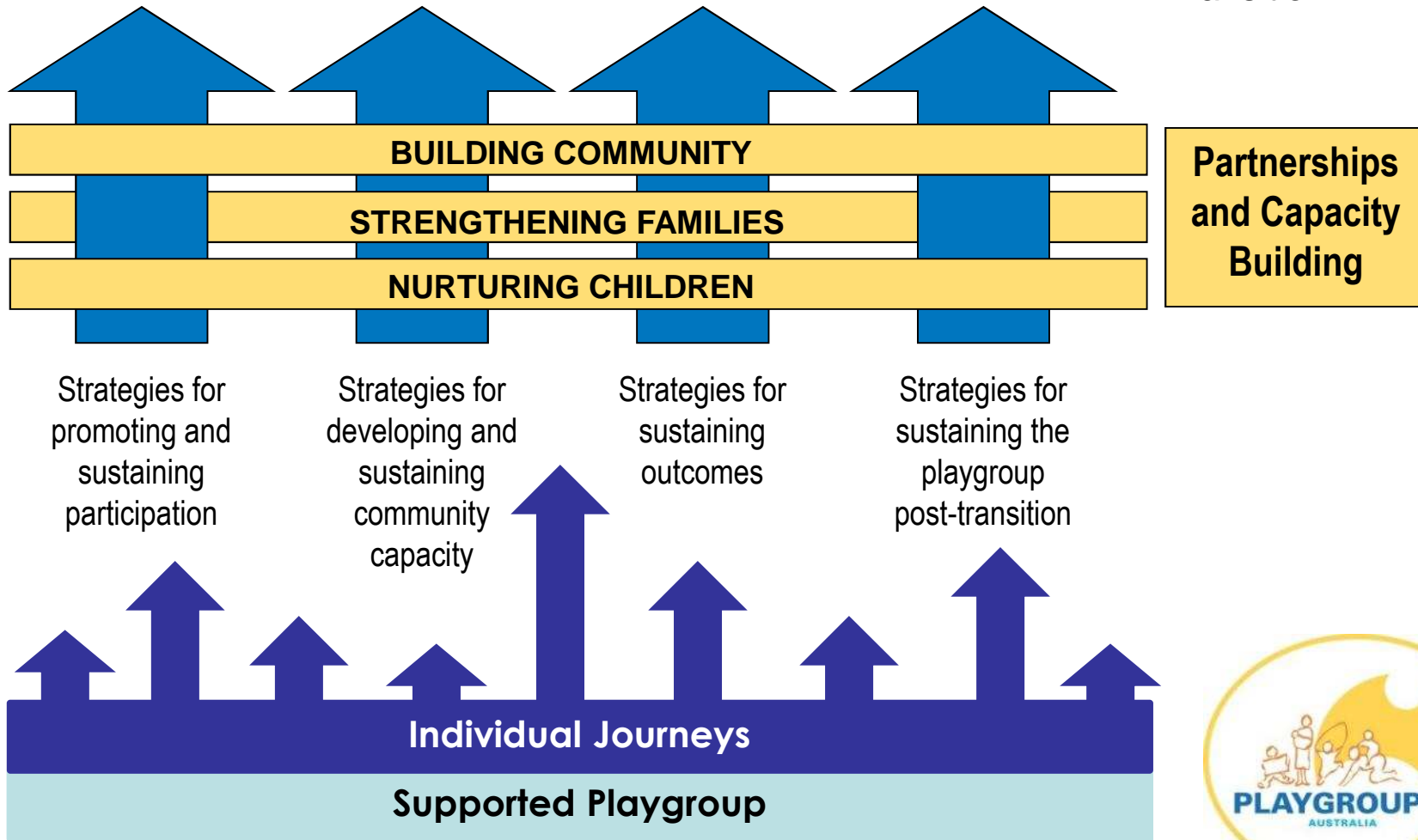
Supported  
Playgroups

Community  
Playgroups



# Community Playgroup

Transition



# Functions of Play in Development

- ✿ Creating
- ✿ Collaborating
- ✿ Making choices
- ✿ Organising
- ✿ Problem Solving
- ✿ Taking and Sharing Responsibility
- ✿ Interpreting
- ✿ Predicting
- ✿ Recalling
- ✿ Reflecting
- ✿ Communicating



## Learnings about PLAY

### Recognize and work with:

- Play breaks down social barriers
- Play is for everyone
- Play encourages child development
- Play is about learning and teaching
- Play encourages communication
- Play is creative
- Play builds confidence and self-esteem
- Play is inexpensive
- Play assists with problem solving
- Play is fun!



**“The true object of all human life is play”**

G.K Chesterson (British Author 1874 – 1936)



# CASE STUDY

## GLENROY VIC

**Commenced** as a Supported Playgroup in May 2009

**Playgroup venue** - meets at the Glenroy Neighbourhood Learning Centre

### **Partner Organisations:**

- Glenroy Neighbourhood Learning Centre
- Glenroy Maternal and Child Health Service
- Moreland Community Health Centre,
- Children's Health Unit and Family Support Unit
- Foundations Early Childhood Intervention
- Local Multicultural Counselling and Welfare Services
- Federation of Indian Associations of Victoria

**Transitioned:** Glenroy transitioned in June 2010 to become a parent-managed playgroup and continue to support local families.



# CASE STUDY

## Little Munchkin's Playgroup

### *Embracing Difference*

**Reference Group** formed in 2007

**Commenced** as a Supported Playgroup in November 2008

**Playgroup venue** meets at Neighbourhood House

#### ***Outcomes:***

- Reduction in social isolation
- Non-clinical approach
- Secondary Consultation
- Large attendance
- 18-44 years of age
- Relationships formed
- Attending related Workshops

**Transition:** *Support extended.*



# Critical Success Factors in encouraging Play for families to create supportive, sustainable community-owned Playgroups

Conveying the message - 'This is your playgroup' and 'It's okay to play'

Creating value for families and the community through the promotion of ownership, responsibility and pride in their playgroup

Children having fun at playgroup = happy parents → parents more likely to be active participants in playgroup sessions

Families are their children first and lifelong teachers and have a wealth of under resourced knowledge waiting to be used.

A peer support approach to working with parents to develop their confidence and create supportive family networks - 'Playgroup is for parents too'

The Playgroup Coordinator is trusted by the target families



**“We don’t stop playing because we grow old. We grow old because we stop playing.”**

**George Bernard Shaw ( Irish Playwright 1856- 1950 )**



*For further information contact your*

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