

national Playgroup Week

25 March - 1 April 2012

Serious fun! Discover
Playgroup

In 2012, National Playgroup Week, Australia's annual celebration of play and Playgroups will be held from Sunday 25 March to Sunday 1 April.

Thousands of families will gather in parks, playgrounds, community halls, backyards and even zoos to celebrate the value of play and Playgroups in early childhood development.

This year's theme, Serious fun! Discover Playgroup, recognises the importance of play in the lives of under school age children and their families. It also encourages people new to Playgroup to see for themselves how Playgroups help children learn through play and the valuable opportunities they offer for parents and caregivers to establish social and support networks.

www.nationalplaygroupweek.com.au



How you can be involved:

- Display this poster
- Promote National Playgroup Week on your event calendars, your Facebook Page, e-newsletters, blogs and websites, including a link to www.nationalplaygroupweek.com.au
- Host an event. Please add its details in the space provided at the bottom of this poster and register it with us at www.nationalplaygroupweek.com.au
- Keep our families playing by donating play equipment, toys and/or a venue for their event during National Playgroup Week. You may like to contact the Community Playgroups in your area and offer your support to any National Playgroup Week events they have planned.
- Encourage your staff, family and friends with young children to participate in National Playgroup Week activities planned in their local area.
- Become an ambassador. Fill out the form on our website or contact Playgroup Australia on **07 3394 8448** or email to marketing@playgroupaustralia.com.au for more information.

Your support and involvement will help raise the profile of Playgroups and spread the message that Playgroups offer tangible benefits to children, families and communities and are an integral part of early education and care in Australia.

Contact us

Playgroup Australia is happy to answer your questions and talk about how you can celebrate or become involved in National Playgroup Week.

Contact us by calling **07 3394 8448** or email to marketing@playgroupaustralia.com.au

Contact your State and Territory Association direct to see what activities they have planned by calling **1800 171 882 toll free.**

National Playgroup Week

National Playgroup Week is an initiative of Playgroup Australia and the State and Territory Playgroup Associations.

Playgroup Australia is the national peak and representative body for Playgroups in Australia.

Our members are the eight State and Territory Playgroup Associations across Australia who collectively represent more than 105,000 families and 145,000 children at 8,500 Playgroup sessions every week.

Playgroup Australia recognises parents as a child's first educator, values all families with small children aged birth to school age learning and developing together through play, and recognises the power of Playgroups to strengthen communities.

Playgroups:

- Are for children under school age. Unlike other early childhood programs such as kindergarten, preschool and child care, parents attend Playgroup with their children.
- Offer babies, toddlers and young children a wide variety of early learning experiences and aim to provide opportunities for children to learn through play.
- Also provide parents and caregivers a chance to meet and share ideas and experiences.
- Typically meet weekly for a two hour session. Community Playgroups are run by the parents, grandparents and other caregivers.
- Are not-for-profit and costs are kept low.
- Commonly meet in community and neighbourhood centres, health clinics, preschools and kindergartens, parks, church and scout halls, and private homes.
- Are an early childhood development model unique to Australia, and they have been operating for 45 years.

Did you know?

- Playgroup-aged children are at a stage of rapid brain and skill development, and play is vital to healthy growth.
- Play-based learning in the formative years enhances a child's educational potential, as well as social and psychological well-being.

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Call your Playgroup Association 1800 171 882 www.nationalplaygroupweek.com.au