

Tuesday 16th of June

COVID-19 Update

Hi everyone,

It was great to hear the Premier announce further easing of restrictions yesterday. While this is exciting, we think it is still a good idea to plan for the possibility of starting playgroup again at the beginning of Term 3. We are currently finalising a booklet that will assist you. We have heard from many of you that your council or shire has started letting you know what they will be requiring for you to use their venues. This has included, having a return to playgroup plan, cleaning protocols and in some cases keeping a list of all of people who attend. Information about these and a range of other things including activity ideas are in the booklet. We are aiming to have it to you by end of next week. Thank you for being patient.

Here's some information about sensory play which many of you have been asking.

What do we do about sensory play?

As you know childcare centers and kindergartens have been operating throughout this period. There is no requirement for children to social distance. The advice has been about children not attending if they display symptoms and washing of hands before and during sessions. We have just received advice from the Department of Education. Here it is.

Advice on sensory play:

“The current health advice is that early childhood services can continue to safely engage in group sensory activities, with hand washing before and after such activities strongly recommended. There are no restrictions currently in place on the use of sandpits, digging patches, water play or playdough.” Department of Education – Early childhood education coronavirus (COVID-19) Update Thursday 11 June 2020

This is good and important information. Part of preparing to start playgroup again is that everyone knows and understands what the medical advice is. Ensuring everyone is on the **same page** about what you can and cannot do. Importantly everyone needs to feel safe and comfortable with any procedures or protocols that are put in place.

Next steps

While we will continue to send updates, please keep an eye on our website www.playgroup.org.au our [Playgroup at Home](#) Facebook group, and the other activities you can participate in now. This week I participated in [Moveit4kids](#). It was brilliant. There's also [All Come Out to Play](#) every Wednesday at 10am. You can sign-up using the links above.

As always if you have any questions please contact us. Look forward to seeing everyone back at playgroup soon.

With thanks

Danny Schwarz

Playgroup Victoria CEO