A Short Guide to Running a

Cultural or Language-Specific Playgroup



A cultural or language-specific playgroup is a space where families who share a cultural background, heritage or language can come together to connect, play and support one another.

These playgroups help children develop a strong sense of identity and belonging, while supporting families to maintain language, culture and traditions. They can also reduce isolation by creating a familiar and welcoming environment for parents and carers.

Some playgroups may also be bilingual or open to families who are learning or interested in the language and culture.

Playgroup Space

- Create a welcoming environment that reflects the culture(s) or language of the group.
- Display culturally relevant posters, artwork, books and music.
- Include signage in the shared language(s) where possible.
- Invite families to contribute items, stories or materials that reflect their culture. their culture.
- Be mindful and respectful of cultural practices, celebrations and traditions.

Partnerships and Promotion

- Connect with local cultural organisations, community groups and language schools.
- Promote the playgroup through culturally relevant networks, community leaders and places of gathering.
- Use translated materials or bilingual promotion where possible.
- Partner with services that support multicultural families.

Toys, Resources and Activities

- Include books, songs and storytelling in the shared language(s).
- Provide toys and play materials that reflect cultural traditions and everyday life.
- Celebrate cultural events, festivals and significant days together.
- Encourage families to share games, food, music and activities from their culture.
- Support children to hear and use their home language through play and interaction.
- Use visual supports such as picture cards, labels, posters and gestures to help children and adults understand and engage with the language.

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An Important Note

Every cultural group is diverse, and experiences can vary widely within communities. Take time to listen, learn and build relationships with families. Cultural safety is created through ongoing reflection, respect and shared understanding—not assumptions. Be aware that some families may have experienced trauma, displacement or discrimination.

Invite input and leadership from families to ensure the playgroup reflects their needs, strengths and cultural practices.

More Information

Engaging Children in Around-the-World Play

A blog post by the team at Play Matters.

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Resources

Information for educators from the Victorian Inclusion Agency.

For more advice and resources, register your playgroup!



Playgroup Victoria

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playgroup.org.au 1800 171 882 @playgroupvicofficial /playgroupvic