



## Schools: Connecting with your local playgroup

Playgroups are a key to enhancing home learning and children's development before they start their school years. There are many benefits for children, families and schools through building early connections between playgroups and schools.

Connecting early with the children in your area provides opportunities to support their early years of development. Research shows that positive early learning experiences have a significant effect on the future education and well-being trajectories for each child.

Research linking AEDC results with playgroup participation showed children from all socioeconomic backgrounds who went to playgroup were significantly less likely to be vulnerable on one or more AEDC domains than children that didn't go to playgroup.

### What could work for your school?

**If you would like help connecting with the playgroup/s in your area, contact Playgroup WA on: 1800 171882 and speak to the Enhanced Transition to School team member for your area.**

Find out more at: [playgroupwa.com.au/programs-and-services/school-based-playgroups](https://playgroupwa.com.au/programs-and-services/school-based-playgroups)

### Suggestions on ways schools can connect with local playgroups:

- Having the Kindergarten teacher visit playgroup, perhaps to read a story.
- Inviting the playgroup to visit the school to join in special days e.g. Book Week, colour days, Harmony Day, Mother's Day.
- Inviting parents to come to existing school parent events e.g. Parenting or literacy nights.
- Inviting playgroup to visit the school's early learning classes for a joint activity e.g. Teddy Bears' picnic, messy play day.
- The School Principal visiting the playgroup to meet the parents and provide information on school enrolment.
- Inviting the playgroup to attend the school library for story time on a regular basis. You could also have an allocated number of suitable books for 0-4 year olds available in the school library for playgroups to borrow.
- Early learning staff visiting playgroups to provide information on supporting learning in the early years and expectations for starting Kindy.
- Setting up a buddy system with older students reading to playgroup children.
- Referring families to the local playgroup.

