

Introduction

Playgroups are for children under school age and their parents/carers. They can be a welcoming and safe place to connect with children through play and fun. They can be a stepping stone to early childhood learning & give information about local services.



Benefits

Playgroups can be a fun way to support parents and carers as the first educators for their children, help children and parents/carers to connect with others, try different activities and learn new skills. They can help

Children with

- 🕒 playing with other children
- 🕒 physical activities
- 🕒 wellbeing & emotional development
- 🕒 language
- 🕒 thinking & learning
- 🕒 getting ready for kindergarten

Parents/carers with

- 🕒 playing with their children
- 🕒 sharing parenting tips
- 🕒 reading together
- 🕒 getting to know other parents/carers
- 🕒 connecting with community



Playgroups that are run by an early childhood trained staff member can help with picking up concerns with the child's development & work with parent/carers to link them with the right supports.

Koori Playgroups

Some ACCOs run playgroups for their local community. These playgroups can help carers/parents & children to connect to culture & community. They support staff and Elders to build relationships with families.



Supported Playgroups

Supported Playgroups are group programs available to **some** families including families looking after a child in out of home care and Aboriginal families. They run weekly during the school term. The groups are run by trained facilitators. Some families may receive individual support in the home (In-Home Support) Victorian supported playgroups use the 'Smalltalk' parenting strategies. [Smalltalk | Giving your kids a great start](#)

Consider whether a a playgroup in your local ACCO or a supported playgroup works better for the family. Some families may need help with transport.



More information: There are supported playgroups in every local government area in Victoria. Your local Maternal Child Health service can tell you who runs these playgroups in your area.

Information about supported playgroups for staff: [Parenting support - DFFH Service Providers](#)

Information about supported playgroups for parents/carers: [Supported Playgroups - DFFH Services](#)