



## Enhanced Transition to Schools Project: The Power of Connecting Playgroup and School

**Playgroups are key to enhancing home learning environments before children start their school years**

### What is the Enhanced Transition to Schools Project?

The Enhanced Transition to Schools Project is an exciting new partnership between Playgroup WA, the Department of Education, the Department of Local Government and Communities, the Association of Independent Schools, and the Catholic Education Office.

Launched in November 2014, the project was initiated as part of the National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education.

There are wonderful benefits to local families, schools and communities when playgroups are co-located at school or have strong links with their local school.

To find out more contact Playgroup WA's Project Manager Dianne Mazzucato on 1800 171 882 or email [Dianne.Mazzucato@playgroupwa.com.au](mailto:Dianne.Mazzucato@playgroupwa.com.au)

Alternatively you can visit Playgroup WA's website [www.playgroupwa.com.au](http://www.playgroupwa.com.au)



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## Playfully preparing for school

We know that children's experiences prior to school give lasting results in shaping developmental outcomes and providing solid foundations for future learning, health and behaviour.

Playgroups are a great way for families to provide their children with new experiences and opportunities to play, socialise, and discover their world.

Research has shown: Suburbs with higher rates of children attending playgroup generally had lower rates of developmental vulnerability and had higher rates of children on track developmentally across the developmental domains!

### Why it works

Attending playgroup at a school site allows both parents and children to become familiar with the school prior to transition

to formal schooling. It provides opportunities for the families to develop relationships within the school and for the school to get to know families who will be coming into the school. Research indicates that children who have friendships before school tend to transition more positively and to cope better with the academic, social, emotional and physical requirements of school life. Playgroup provides the opportunity to develop friendships before children enter formal school.

Playgroup provides an avenue to increase family awareness and access to information about the school, child development, school readiness skills and school transition issues. It also provides an opportunity to introduce other services that support families with young children.

Schools with experience hosting family run playgroups report benefits including:

- Children in K and PP who had playgroup experience transitioned well to school
- Children more confident in the school environment
- Decrease in separation difficulties
- Parents more confident and willing to help at school
- Parents and children who transition to school with established friendships feel more connected to other families
- Sense of belonging, trust and ownership built with families
- Staff have earlier contact with families
- Children with additional needs identified and supported into early intervention when necessary
- Improved school's relationship with cultural groups within the community
- School has become a community hub for connecting with local services
- Helps school meet NQS 6

## To find out more

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