

KUCAnews Winter Playgroup Ideas 1

Family
Ministry
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For the Under Sixes

Playgroup
Corner

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Book Corner

As playgroup can be over-stimulating for some children, a quiet book corner is helpful to cool off and calm down.



- Set up a corner with a small bookshelf and a pile of soft cushions. Parents can read a story to their child, or a child can choose to curl up and spend a few minutes looking at picture books.
- Start with a small but hardy collection of card books, plastic books, touch and feel type books and favourites like Spot and Thomas the Tank Engine. Add a few good quality Christian board books about the five senses, God's love and a couple of Bible stories like Noah's Ark and Jesus' birth.
- Ruthlessly discard damaged books and keep the area clean and welcoming.

Have a look at a good Christian bookshop for some suitable titles but you can also pick up some good books on special from Coles, Big W and newsagents.

Enjoy the winter months at playgroup, but make sure you are ready for children to spend more time indoors.

As cooler weather brings people inside at playgroup, have a good look at your collage table, playdough table and books. Inside activities will be more important in the coming months, so make sure you have some new things to stimulate children's imagination.

Collage

Use fallen autumn leaves, twigs, paperbark strips, seed pods or ferny leaves to intrigue children and encourage exploration of the garden. I also use gumnuts and pinecones with glue or paint and a different surface to decorate.

Try some different paper textures like patty pans, paper plates, cardboard cylinders, corrugated cardboard or cellophane – but not all at the same time! Add something new each week for children to try and to talk about. Did you keep the coloured foil from your Easter eggs?

For Easter we used lots of cotton balls, crushed eggshells and foil pieces which led to quite different collage being created.



Playdough

Always a favourite with children, and so easy to change with a few simple tricks.

- Try different colours using food dye or for fluoro colours try using poster paint as the colouring.
- Make two lots of playdough of different colours and roll together like a ribbon sandwich and give each child a thick slice to play with.
- Add a few drops of scented oil like lavender or rose. In winter when there are lots of sniffles around I often add Tea Tree Oil or Eucalyptus Oil.
- Add recycled accessories to the table, like black plastic trays, moulded chocolate box trays, moulded plastic cake trays and the moulded plastic egg crates that Easter eggs come in.



Adapted from
KUCA News Autumn
2005 page 21



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