

Playgroup Corner

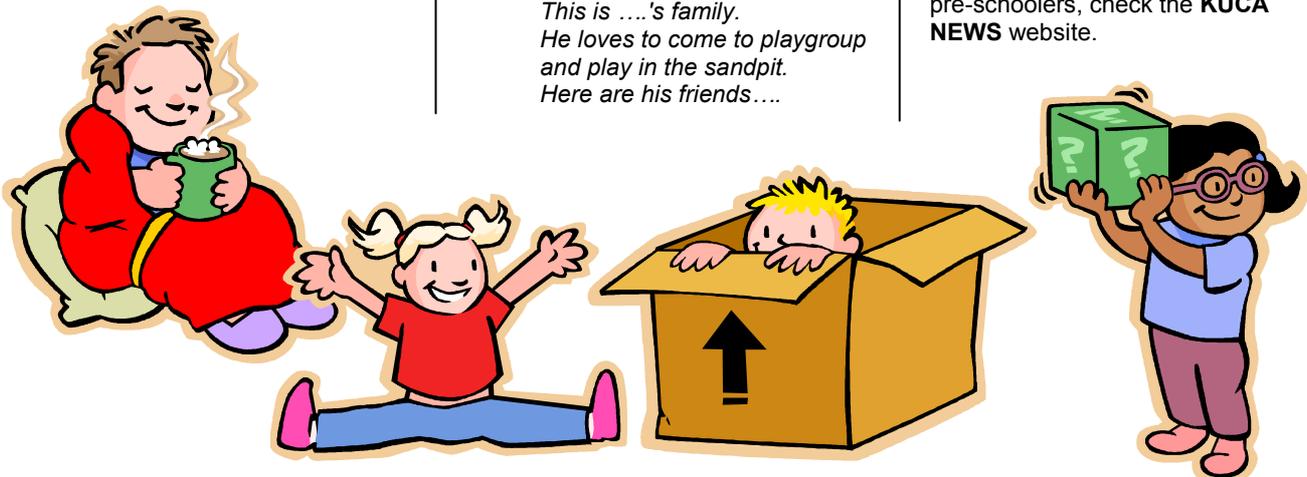


Winter Warmers

Playgroups can sometimes be very cold and draughty in winter, especially if you meet in an old church hall. If numbers are down, think of some ways to warm and brighten your space... or can you move to a smaller room that can be heated during the colder months?

Some winter warmers for playgroup:

- Make playdough together and warm your hands playing with warm playdough. Make several batches in different colours and each family can take a 'rainbow playdough' bag home with them.
- Have a warm morning tea – hot scones or sausage rolls or toasted sandwiches with warm Milo for the children.
- Contact the SA Office for Recreation and Sport (8416 6764) and book a free physical play 'Playtime' session – all the jumping and running around will warm everyone up! [Interstate: check out your state Dept of Recreation and Sport and see if they offer something equivalent.]



Now we are at that time of the year when the days are colder and shorter and rainy day activities are in demand.

Here are some suggestions for playgroup fun -

Make playdough

- Use the recipe that just requires two cups of very hot water and make it (being very careful of the hot water) with the children.
- Let them choose the colour and then play with it while it is still warm.
- For an extra sensory experience add a few drops of scented oil like rose, lavender or tea tree oil.

Have a 'Box Day'

- Ask everyone to bring a box.
- Collect a few spare boxes like shoe boxes, supermarket boxes and even a large fridge or TV box if you can.
- Let the children decorate their boxes and use their imagination to decide what to make.
- Provide a few rolls of strong tape, paper plates (for wheels) and crepe paper streamers (for fun).

Make a book

- Just a few pages stapled or sewn together can become a precious record of your child.
- Get them to draw some pictures of themselves doing what they enjoy and each page can say something like

*This is a book all about ...
This is's family.
He loves to come to playgroup
and play in the sandpit.
Here are his friends....*

with **Judyth Roberts**

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Special Days and Weeks

It is **Father's Day** soon, and **Book Week** and **Show Week**! Why not combine some of these special times by creating a special book for dad (or grandpa) at playgroup, or making dad a 'show bag' to show him how much he's loved and appreciated.

Book Week is in August and is a great time to encourage children to read, make and enjoy books.

I have made simple books by stapling a few blank pages together and encouraging families to be creative about writing their story, using the collage, pens and paints at playgroup and maybe adding a photo or two at home.

A **show bag** can be created using a clear plastic bag or a paper bag and filling it with some goodies like a balloon, some stickers, a little packet of sultanas (or Smarties) and some things that a child might share with dad, like a playgroup-created tie, kite, pen holder or card.

For more ideas for Father's Day for pre-schoolers, check the **KUCA NEWS** website.