



# Playgroups can be missional

The following principles can help make your playgroup missional. They are currently being successfully used in many church playgroups to bring people into a relationship with Jesus. As a Christian playgroup, you may choose to prayerfully implement them.

- ✚ Faithful prayer is a vital and integral part of the playgroup ministry and outreach.
- ✚ The playgroup is seen by the church as part of its total ministry and is supported by leadership. Ongoing encouragement is given to everyone involved.
- ✚ The leader is a committed Christian who is passionate about playgroup as a ministry and can build a like-minded team around them.
- ✚ The differences between a Christian playgroup and a community playgroup are discussed and clearly understood.
- ✚ A mission statement for the playgroup that aligns with the vision of the church has been developed in conjunction with church leadership.
- ✚ Relationships develop when the size of the playgroup allows meaningful interactions (8-12 adults including leaders).
- ✚ Meaningful relationships develop when a significant number of Christians, including childfree adults, are involved in the playgroup.
- ✚ Playgroup leaders include a variety of ages, men or women, with or without children.
- ✚ The focus of the playgroup is friendship evangelism, not the Christian curriculum. Relationships are the key, not the program.
- ✚ Someone on the church leadership team, e.g. the pastor, regularly visits the playgroup.
- ✚ All written and verbal information about the playgroup clearly states the Christian nature of the playgroup.
- ✚ Regular bridge-building activities link playgroup and church families together at organised functions.
- ✚ Willing church members are available to help playgroup members in need.
- ✚ The playgroup's profile in the church is raised when the playgroup's leadership team includes a leader (or their spouse) of the church's leadership team.
- ✚ Caring and sharing is at the heart of playgroup ministry – birthdays are celebrated (children & adults); a meal provided; flowers and gifts; intentionally connecting people with similar interests and taking advantage of natural friendships.
- ✚ Church people are given specific responsibilities on the playgroup team for pastoral care, evangelism, communication and special events.
- ✚ Where the church community is continually updated about playgroup there is increased interest, involvement and prayer.