

Toys... what to get?

BASIC TOYS and EQUIPMENT for your Playgroup

- A variety of balls
- Construction sets and blocks (at least 20 pieces)
- Washable dolls, dolls bed and bedding
- Dressups – bags, scarves, shoes, large mirror.
- Baby toys, rattles, soft toys, washable or cardboard books
- Large crayons, paste and paint brushes, non-spill paint pots, play dough rollers and cutters
- Paper of all shapes and sizes
- Puzzles
- Books to sit and read or be read to in a comfy corner.
- Sets of animals, cars, trains, musical instruments, tea sets, cooking sets
- Buckets, spades, scoops, dump trucks and graders for the sandpit or a digging patch
- Push or pedal wheeled toys, tricycles, walker wagons, pull along toys, doll's prams, wheelbarrows
- Floor rugs, play mats, a place for hanging completed work (eg. clothes horse)
- Tarpaulins, large squares of laminate or sheets of strong plastic to protect floor from messy play activities
- Storage boxes for equipment and toys
- Furniture for small children – tables and chairs, child size smocks

This is not an exhaustive list, nor is it compulsory to have all these items. As you require new/more items to keep the children occupied, these items will help to encourage play, interaction and development in each child on different levels.



Sources:

- Playgroup Victoria Manual 3rd edition – chapter 3 . Available from Playgroup Victoria
- The Duty of Care Policy of the Baptist Union of Victoria
– available at www.buv.com.au or contact Ruth Kernick for details.
- 'A Resource Booklet for Churches Planning a Playgroup'- by the ECRU of the BUV (1997)

Remember some IMPORTANT HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES at Playgroup:

- Access to a phone for emergencies
- Adequate storage space
- Fire extinguishers
- Leaders and helpers have a 'Police Check' and "Working with Children Check'
- First Aid Kit supplied and maintained
- Operating smoke detectors
- Kitchen access restricted by a 'low gate'
- Dangerous detergents stored in a safe place in the kitchen
- Appropriate safeguards for electrical appliances, heaters and power outlets
- Toilet facilities appropriate for children – eg step for the toilet, child's toilet seat.
- Safeguards to ensure the hot water in the bathroom does not scald and burn children
- Nappy changing facilities available – change mat, paper towel, disinfectant.
- Exits labelled correctly
- An emergency evacuation procedure in place and practiced
- Sunsmart practices are used in the months September to April when outside
- A sign in/out book is used every session
- A documented procedure in case of accident or emergency
- Adequate fencing (min. height 1.5metres) and childproof gate for any outdoor area used by children
- Appropriate surfaces in the playground eg. impact absorbing under play equipment
- Sandpit is well drained , able to be covered and has shade cover.

This list is a guide to check how safe your playgroup is.

