

TOYS & EQUIPMENT FOR PLAYGROUP



Christian Playgroup Network

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BELOW ARE SOME SUGGESTED TOYS AND EQUIPMENT TO INCLUDE AT YOUR PLAYGROUP

This is not an exhaustive list but is a guide as to what you might have at playgroup. As you require new/ more items they will help to encourage play, interaction and development in each child on different levels at your playgroup.

- A variety of balls
- Construction set and blocks (at least 20 pieces)
- Washable dolls, doll beds & bedding
- Dress ups – including bags, scarves, shoes, large mirror
- Baby toys – including rattles, soft toys, washable or board books, cause and effect toys
- Large crayons, paste and paint brushes, non-spill paint pots, playdough rollers and cutters
- Paper of all shapes and sizes
- A variety of Puzzles – ranging from simple to harder ones depending on your group
- Books to sit and read or be read to in a comfy corner
- Sets of cars, animals, trains, musical instruments, tea sets and cooking sets
- Buckets, spades, scoops, dump trucks and graders for the sandpit or a digging patch
- Push or pedal wheeled toys, walker wagons, pull along toys, dolls prams, wheelbarrows
- Floor rugs, play mats and large cushions to define play areas
- A place for hanging completed artwork eg clothes drying frame
- Tarpaulins, large squares of laminate or waterproof picnic rugs to protect the floor from messy play activities
- Storage crates with lids for equipment and toys to be stored
- Furniture for small children including tables and chairs and child size smocks.

TOP TIPS :

Provide multiples of the same toy to avoid unnecessary fights over the one toy.

Is it too small and as such a choking hazard? A good guide is if it can fit inside the old film cannisters it is too small for pre-schoolers

Keep an eye out for annual Toy Sales at the department stores such as BIG W and TARGET where you can pick up great bargains!

Buy good quality second hand toys & equipment through your local Opportunity Shops, recycle toy shops or online.

10 QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN CHOOSING TOYS FOR PLAYGROUP

1. Is it durable? Will it withstand constant, heavy use? Should it be discarded because it is damaged?
2. Is it safe for all children or will it need to be used in a restrictive area?
3. Can it be easily cleaned?
4. Is it appropriate to the children's abilities? Can they use it on their own?
5. Does it encourage social interaction? Is it used individually?
6. Is it simple and versatile? Can it be used by children of different ages? Can it be used indoors & outdoors?
7. Does it give the opportunity to develop and practice new skills?
8. Does it have scope for the imagination and for experimentation?
9. Is it in line with the interests of this group of children?
10. What is the value? Does it entertain, encourage physical play, foster creativity or is it a tool for imaginative play?