

November  
2017

# ACTive Play



## PLAYGROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY

Don't forget our next great event, the Playgroup Members Christmas Party.

Date: Monday 11th December  
Place: Black Mountain Peninsula  
Garryowen Dr, Acton  
Time: 10am—11:30am

There will be games, fun and activities for all, and a visit from Santa. Hope to see you there.

Welcome to your ACTive Play Digest. This hard copy update with the latest news and links to articles is sent out to Playgroup Contacts with playgroup profiles early each month. News articles are now regularly posted on our website and on Facebook. We are hoping this will allow for families and playgroups to better access up-to-date stories, information and resources. All feedback is appreciated and welcome.

Thanks to the  
**Canberra Weekly**  
for their continued support.

## ALL PLAYGROUP CONTACTS and VOLUNTEERS



ACT Playgroups  
Association Inc.

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[www.facebook.com/PlaygroupsACT](https://www.facebook.com/PlaygroupsACT)



Please let us thank and pay tribute to the amazing work you do as volunteers at a Volunteering morning tea.

Date: Wednesday 6th December

Time: 10:30—12:00 (including Children's week awards presentation)

Place: ACT Playgroups Office  
41 Templeton St, Cook

RSVP: 1 December 2017,  
[play@playgroupact.org.au](mailto:play@playgroupact.org.au)

Check out our latest blog posts and articles on our home page: [www.playgroupact.org.au](http://www.playgroupact.org.au)

## Annual General Meeting

ACT Playgroups invites all ACT Playgroup members to attend our AGM. AGMs aren't only for reports, nominations and the election of new committee members, they are also a great time to celebrate successes and thank the volunteers who have helped keep your playgroup running. It is also a wonderful time where we will congratulate and showcase our Children's Week award winners.

The main business of the AGM itself is the standard annual reports, electing new Board members, and setting membership rates for 2018. This year we would also like to honour the work of all our tireless volunteers with a celebratory morning tea and get-together at 10.30am.

**What:** ACT Playgroups Association Inc, 2017 Annual General Meeting

**When:** Wednesday 6 December 2017

**Time:** 10.30 (morning tea), 12pm AGM

**Where:** ACT Playgroups Office 41 Templeton St, Cook

### POSITIONS VACANT

**Are you passionate about the value of playgroups in the ACT?**

**Are you looking to build management experience or gain new skills?**

**Do you have a few hours per month to spare?**

Nominations are invited for the volunteer Board of Management.

For further information please contact Kirsten Cross (Executive Officer) on 1800 171 882

## Annual Survey—Please help

Please help us help you make playgroup great. Each year ACT Playgroups conducts a survey seeking feedback from members. Some of the information we collect is required by our funding bodies but all feedback really matters to your ACT Playgroups team because it helps us provide the best and most useful support to you and your Playgroup.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey before 20 December 2017. One lucky Playgroup member will win a family gift pack and the Playgroup with the largest number of responses will win a wonderful play pack. If you wish to remain anonymous, then please don't fill in the name, address or Playgroup name sections, but please note we cannot then enter you in the prize draw.

If you have any questions, issues or concerns about anything in this survey, please contact Kirsten Cross (Executive Officer, ACT Playgroups) on 1800 171 882 or email to: [play@playgroupact.org.au](mailto:play@playgroupact.org.au).

The survey will take around 3 minutes to complete. Please take this time to complete the survey, at this link:

<https://goo.gl/forms/6f9mXBQRKjDXlxEk2>

## Helping your child prepare for school

There are many Playgroup activities that benefit children in getting ready for their first steps into formal education. Although at times it seems like it's just song singing or story listening, in actual fact at Playgroup we're practicing a whole range of valuable skills vital for a smooth transition to school.

### Consider this...

- Playing dress ups and opening lunch boxes teaches self-care.
- Music and singing is helping children learn about working in groups, turn taking and confidence building.
- Asking for help and being aware of others in a space is teaching social skills and manners.
- Getting adults to take turns reading stories or leading music sessions can get your child ready for a teaching environment.
- Craft activities at Playgroup can help your child develop essential fine motor skills, such as pencil grip and cutting.
- Choosing their own activities at Playgroup promotes independence, confidence and independent thinking.
- Different toys and resources at your local venue may help develop logic and problem solving.
- Story sessions introduce early literacy concepts.
- Playgroup excursions can prepare children for expectations of their behaviour while out and about.
- The structure at Playgroup will help your child get used to the routines involved in daily life at school, such as washing hands before eating, group time and the morning welcome.

### More tips for school readiness

- Visit the school when there are few people around – have a wander about and point out the classroom they'll be in, and check out the playground and toilets.
- Take some of your child's friends to the park or playground and let them play while you sit on a bench and have a coffee, so your child gets used to the idea that you won't be involved in all their activities all the time, including at school.
- Allow your child to dress themselves as much as possible, building confidence, self-care and dexterity.
- Go for some picnics so your son or daughter can practice opening and closing their lunch box, and allow them some choices about what might go in it too!
- Help children get used to other known people helping them eg., suggesting a friend or grandparent to help tie laces, get drinks etc.
- Before term starts invite children from the neighbourhood who'll be starting school at the same time, to come over for a play.

## Welcome to the following playgroups

We would like to welcome the following new playgroups and wish them many years of happy playtime together!

Friday Play, Cook, Friday midday, 0-2

\*Belconnen Winter Babies 2017, Cook, Monday am, 0-1

\*Cheeky Monkeys, Cook, Friday am, 0-2

Roly Polys, Cook, Tuesday pm, 0-1

\*Kippax Kids Blokes, Holt, Friday midday, 0-5

\*Kippax Kids Grandparents, Holt, Wed midday, 0-5

\* indicates that group has vacancies



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1 April 2017	Fitzroy Building
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2 September 2017	Mitchell
18 November 2017	

Saturdays 9am to 12 noon - \$4 entry (kids free)  
[www.babykidsmarket.com.au](http://www.babykidsmarket.com.au)



# Canberra Christmas Markets

**2017** Saturday 9 December  
Sunday 10 December  
9am to 3pm

Christmas Trees, Puddings, Toys, Gingerbread Houses, Decorations, Fudges, Chillies, Pet Presents, Books, DVD's, Records, Jewelry, Cosmetics, Cherries, Preserves, Spices, Novelties, Fashion, Cakes and Pastries, Men's Giftware, Pottery, Artwork, Sweets, German Sausages, Craftwork and much much more.

New Stallholders Welcome

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