

# ACTIVE Play



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.

## October 2017

### PLAYFEST

This year ACT Playgroups will be celebrating Children's week by holding PlayFEST at The Cook Community Hub, 41 Templeton Street, Cook (behind the ACT Playgroups Office) on:

**Tuesday 24 October from 10am - 1pm**

This event will feature community organisations, local businesses and fantastic entertainment for the children, and many more attractions. All the children's activities and entertainment offered by ACT Playgroups will be FREE.

Invite your family, friends, childcare centres and preschools along. This is going to be a fabulous day and we would love to have you all there.

Spring is definitely here. The sun is shining, the flowers are blooming and it is the perfect time for your playgroup to be out exploring the wonderful sights of Canberra. Floriade is looking amazing this year and is a fabulous place to go for a playgroup excursion.

### Children's Week 2017

The purpose of Children's Week, held across Australia, is to raise awareness of the needs, interests, rights and achievements of children and young people; to assist them to realise their individual potential; to celebrate their achievements.

Join other playgroup families at our annual PlayFEST on Tuesday 24th October.

Celebrate with a special outing or activity or join in one of the many special events listed in the official program, available from: [www.actchildrensweek.com.au](http://www.actchildrensweek.com.au)

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

### Membership Evaluation

Membership of ACT Playgroups costs \$35 per year (or \$20 concession). This fee helps cover the cost of insurance should anything happen to you or your children while attending playgroup; and staff to support the activities of your group through your playgroup contact and our ACTIVE Play newsletter.

The membership fee also currently gives you access to some member only activities, free Playdates, and a range of discounts through the Australian baby card. The fee has remained at \$35 since 2015. Families with financial difficulties or in our specialist/early intervention programs have the fee waived.

The Board of ACT Playgroups would like to know your views about membership of ACT Playgroups. Responses from the survey will inform proposals for what our membership fees would look like. All members will have the opportunity to consider proposals at the annual general meeting later this year.

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

<https://goo.gl/forms/QK8llqJYUzkBpxxD2>

### Welcome to the following playgroups

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

\*LPGH Lanyon 2017 Babies, Conder, Wed am, ages 0-1

\*Canberra Bush Playgroup, Various nature reserves around Canberra, Fri am, fortnightly, ages 0-4

\* indicates that group has vacancies

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

## Make our website even better

Have you seen our new website?

Can you help us make it even better?

Our website aims to provide a clean, easy to navigate hub with an improved user experience. The website will include all you need to know about playgroup, news and events, playgroup policies, articles, stories and play ideas for babies, toddlers and children to enjoy at playgroup or home.

## How can you help? Send us your:

### Playgroup Stories

*"Some of the biggest moments in life are the tiniest."*

*Kate Knapp*

Playgroups are amazing places for families to connect together, and share the journey of raising children. We would like to dedicate a page to sharing the stories of families who have been impacted by attending a playgroup or program. Please share your playgroup stories with us.

### Volunteer stories

With your help, we can make a difference to the lives of many more families with young children in the Canberra region. ACT Playgroups would not be able to support over 200 Playgroup sessions each week across the ACT without the amazing volunteers we have within our playgroups. Volunteering benefits not just the families who attend Playgroup, but also strengthens the local community. We would love you to share your experiences about volunteering for ACT Playgroups to showcase how you have made a difference to the lives of families with young children in the Canberra region.

### Play Activity Ideas

Play is how children learn about the world around them and how to use their language, touch, smell, hearing and bodies. It is how children learn cooperation and resilience. It provides the building blocks that help children be ready for school.

On this webpage we will be providing a range of play ideas that cover all the major areas of child development. We are currently developing a series of play ideas for babies, toddlers and children and would love your help. Please send Fiona your

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- RECORDS
- DVDS
- CDS
- COFFEE
- FOOD
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10AM - 3PM FITZROY PAVILLION, EXHIBITION PARK IN CANBERRA  
4 February, 18 March, 22 April, 20 May, 24 June, 5 August, 9 September, 4 November 2017  
NEW STALLHOLDERS ALWAYS WELCOME! BOOK ONLINE TODAY

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ideas. This could be a playdough recipe, an idea for exploring nature with toddlers, a gardening playgroup idea, a cultural activity or theme, songs to use at transition times, box play ideas and more...

**Please send all your Playgroup stories and play ideas to Fiona at [play@playgroupact.org.au](mailto:play@playgroupact.org.au)**



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

## ACT Playgroups Facebook Pages and Groups

Have you seen and liked our Facebook pages and groups? These have useful, important and relevant information and resources for playgroups. Take a look, 'Like' and share the following pages:

**ACT Playgroups Association:** For ideas, resources, information, playgroup events:  
[www.facebook.com/PlaygroupsACT/](http://www.facebook.com/PlaygroupsACT/)

**ACT Paint and Playgroup:** For Paint and Playgroup updates, events and more:  
[www.facebook.com/ACT-Paint-and-Playgroup-1636120529972625/](http://www.facebook.com/ACT-Paint-and-Playgroup-1636120529972625/)

**ACT Playgroup Contacts Group:** A special group for Playgroup Contacts to share, connect and receive specific information needed for the Contacts role:  
[www.facebook.com/groups/ACTPlaygroupContacts/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ACTPlaygroupContacts/)

**Sticks and Stones Nature Playgroup:** For all things related to nature and outdoor play for families with young children, including what is happening in our Sticks and Stones Nature Playgroup:  
[www.facebook.com/Sticks.Stones.NaturePlay/](http://www.facebook.com/Sticks.Stones.NaturePlay/)

**Intergenerational Playgroups Canberra:** For information about our Intergenerational Playgroup program:  
[www.facebook.com/intergenerationalplaygroupscanberra/](http://www.facebook.com/intergenerationalplaygroupscanberra/)