

ACTive Play Digest



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.

Best wishes from your ACT Playgroups Team



February 2018
ACTive Play Digest

Our website and Facebook pages

Our Website has exciting and regularly updated with playgroup information, resources and information. Please have a look at: www.playgroupact.org.au

Don't forget to like us on Facebook to keep up to date with news, ideas, events and much more. <https://www.facebook.com/PlaygroupsACT>

Save the date....ACT Playgroups will be out and about in your community this year...

We are already planning our major 2018 events. Save these dates in your diary and watch for further details.

World's Biggest Playgroup: Tuesday 20 March, 10 am – 12pm at the Holt Community Hub. We hope many families will be able to attend, but would also love to have playgroups participate with a stall or activity. Please let us know if your group may be interested.

PlayFEST 2018: Tuesday 23 October - venue TBA. Celebrate ACT Children's Week with us!!

PlayDates: Three times per year during the first week of ACT school holidays. Stay connected to our website, Facebook or emails for more information and how to book into the April sessions. PlayDates are a low-cost and fun activity for member families.

Registration

Also enclosed is a 2018 Playgroup Registration form. Your form provides us with up to date information about your playgroup. This is extremely important in terms of insurance. Forms can also be downloaded from our website. Please complete and return one for your playgroup as soon as possible. Registration forms can be found online at: <http://playgroupact.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Playgroup-registration-to-2019.pdf>

New Playgroups

We'd like to welcome the following new playgroups:

- Cook—Belco String Babies
- *Condor—Southside Babies of 2017
- Condor—The Baby Bunch
- *Harrison—Gungahlin New Parents
- Kambah—Tuggeranong Mothers Group
- *Kaleen - Possum Play
- Mawson-The Quick and the Dribbly
- *Queanbeyan—RakThai Playgroup

If you would like more information about these or any playgroups, please contact the office. *indicates that group has vacancies.

Do you or someone you know want to start a new playgroup? Please contact us for assistance.

Playgroup Communications

Our wonderful Development and Support Workers are aiming to contact all our playgroups in the next few months. They are available to help with support, advice and information regarding Playgroup matters. They are also looking at venues, including your current venue, in order to develop a database of venue locations and availability for use for new playgroups. Please don't hesitate to email your questions, thoughts or suggestions.



Thanks to the
Canberra Weekly
for their continued support.

ACT PLAYGROUPS MEMBERSHIP IS CURRENTLY FREE

JOIN NOW AND ENJOY THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS AND MORE.....

Become a member at: <http://playgroupact.org.au/members.../membership-types/family/>

FREE MEMBERSHIP

Your ACT Playgroups Association board has decided to trial a zero dollar membership fee for 2018. All families who sign up to membership during these 12 months, and anyone who renews their membership during 2018 will receive their membership for free. We trust that this will encourage more families to sign up for membership with the Association and benefit from everything that membership offers.

To help compensate for the loss of membership income, a range of other fees will be introduced:

- Playdate sessions will no longer be free to members. There will be a small charge of \$5 for per family per session. Non-members will be asked to join ACT Playgroups before they sign up for one of our Playdate sessions;
- Paint and Play participants will be asked for a weekly fee;
- One off venue hire (for organisations and birthday parties) will increase;
- Term fees for our playrooms will increase (although the free membership will mean that the overall increase is only \$5 per year);
- Advertising rates will go up and we will explore sponsorship and merchandising opportunities.
- Even though membership will be free, we encourage those who can, to make a tax deductible donation - to help support the work of playgroups and your Playgroup Association.

ACT Playgroups Association Inc.

PO Box 513

JAMISON CENTRE
ACT 2614

41 Templeton St,
COOK ACT 2614

ABN: 75 749 847 915

P: (02) 6251 0261

P: **1800 171 882** (toll free)

Fax: (02) 6251 9887

E: play@playgroupact.org.au

www.playgroupact.org.au



ABC Card: The Australian Baby code offering you hundreds of discounts from numerous ACT based businesses.

Support: Access to ACT Playgroups Support and Development Workers in person, via email or on the phone. These workers can provide you with useful resources and materials, Playgroup activities, ideas, support and more.

Insurance: Comprehensive public liability and personal accident insurance while you and your children are attending an ACT Playgroups registered Playgroup anywhere in the ACT plus insurance to and from playgroup and when on playgroup excursions.

More.... ACT Playgroup also helps playgroups find venues, auspice grants, offers fundraising support, helps with finding playgroups for you to attend and helps and supports you to start a playgroups.

Room hire: Playrooms for hire for playgroups and also for events such as birthday parties.

Events: ACT Playgroups stages three main events throughout the year. These includes:

- World's Biggest Playgroup held in March
- PlayFEST held in October, this event provides community based information and support services with lots of free children's activities and entertainment
- Christmas Party held in December

Playdates: Our Development and Support staff run Playdates at various venues in each school holidays. These low-cost sessions include Music, Physical, Sensory and Literacy play for birth—5 years. Each session is a great opportunity to experience some FUN educationally based early years play activities that can be easily replicated at playgroup or at home.

Publications: Our monthly newsletter and website articles provide practical, local information about raising children, as well as original articles by experienced journalists, childhood professionals and parents.

Resources: Access to a wide range of playgroup resources, tools and ideas developed by Playgroup Development and Support Workers

Hire: For a small hire fee and refundable deposit ACT Playgroups members can raise money by making key rings, magnets or badges with the hire of our badge machine. Laminating, Faxing, Photocopying for a small fee is also available.

Parent Resource Library: We have an extensive parent library located at our Cook office. The books are available for loan at no cost to members.

Advertising: Playgroups can advertise in our monthly newsletter/email. Our newsletter reaches around 2000 families in the ACT.