

Professional Development Resource

Topic: Playgroups

Video pod: Playgroups

Please see link [here](#).

This video pod shares key ideas on playgroups and how they can provide an essential role in promoting refugee families' settlement, children's early learning and transition to school. Playgroups and play based learning have a very important role in supporting children's learning, health and development. They support children's transition to school and give their parents opportunities to make new friends and build social relationships. Leaders and facilitators play a critical role in facilitating playgroups to assist with navigating children's learning because different cultures have different parenting strategies and may not know about Australian practices and processes. Not only can knowledge support the families, but centres and hubs also learn a lot of new families as they settle. The positionality of the domain of playgroups is depicted in the *Knowledge Translation Framework* developed below.



Vignette	Key ideas shared in the vignettes	After watching the vignettes, document your reflections and take away messages here to share with others
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playgroups can be a great starting point for the early learning years and can help children settle well into school. • Playgroups play a central role in developing different skills like numeracy, literacy, and social relationship building practices. • Following a set routine helps children to be more organized and develop their social skills. 	
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The playgroup provides different programs, from which families benefit. • It is important to build connections with the community and engage families who may be hesitant to participate. • The playgroup assists families to feel more confident in engaging with their child and provides an opportunity for cultural exchange and learning. 	
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The playgroup is important for families with little English proficiency as it helps in the transition to school. • The community hub model emphasizes the importance of community in supporting families and playgroups. 	

Questions/Learning Activity: Playgroups

1. What role do playgroups play in supporting families' settlement, children's early learning and transition to school?
2. What do parents in the centre or hub think of the benefits of play and playgroups?

3. What ideas do you have to help families with limited English proficiency to understand the benefits of playgroups and to encourage their participation in the playgroup activities?
4. Think of ways you can collaborate with various local community organizations to source additional resources needed to run playgroups in your centre or hub?
5. What ideas do you have to make playgroups culturally relevant for families and children?