

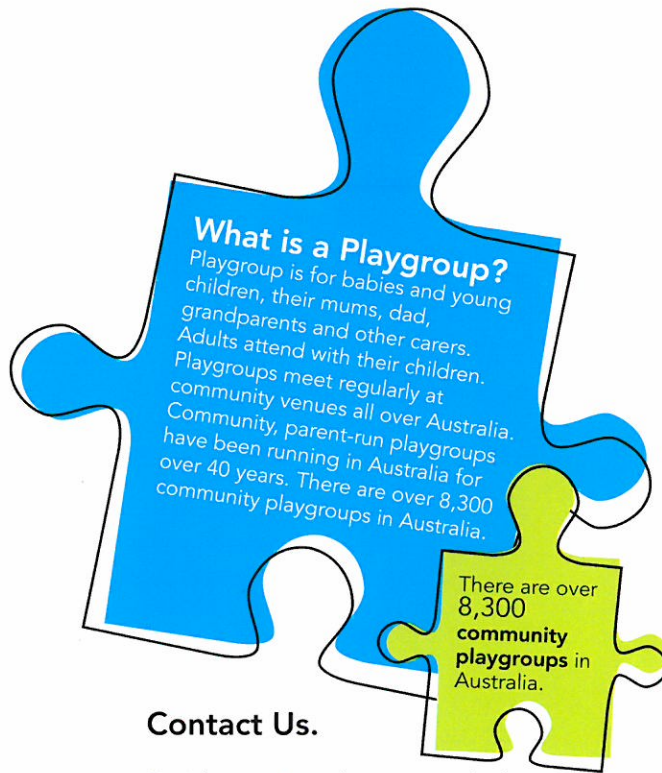


**PlayConnect**  
Playgroups are located in metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas of Australia.

### How can I find out more?

Visit the website [www.playconnect.com.au](http://www.playconnect.com.au) or call the **PlayConnect Infoline 1800 790 335** (free call)

For more information about the early intervention available through the Australian Government Helping Children With Autism initiative, visit the website [www.fahcsia.gov.au/autism](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/autism) or call their Information Line: **1800 778 581** (free call)



### What is a Playgroup?

Playgroup is for babies and young children, their mums, dad, grandparents and other carers. Adults attend with their children. Playgroups meet regularly at community venues all over Australia. Community, parent-run playgroups have been running in Australia for over 40 years. There are over 8,300 community playgroups in Australia.

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### Contact Us.

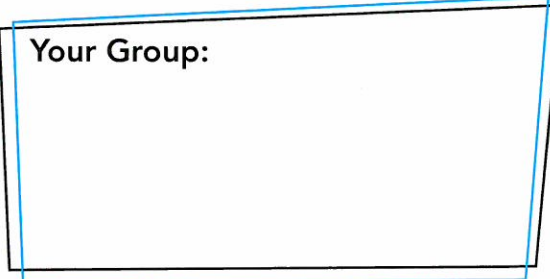
For information on playgroups and other early intervention services, contact your State or Territory Playgroup Association: **1800 171 882** (free call)

[www.playgroupaustralia.com.au/nsw](http://www.playgroupaustralia.com.au/nsw)

Playgroup NSW



### Your Group:



Funded by the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs as part of the Helping Children with Autism Package.



**Play Connect**  
Playgroups

talk  
**PLAY**  
share  
CONNECT

[www.playconnect.com.au](http://www.playconnect.com.au)

# PlayConnect

**PlayConnect** Playgroups are here to benefit the whole family and carers of children 0-6 years who may have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) characteristics, developmental delays in communication and social skills and/or behavioural and sensory issues.

Your child does not require a diagnosis from a medical practitioner. **PlayConnect** welcomes siblings up to the age of six years and provides a supportive base that allows play and interaction with other families.

It's about connecting with others to talk, play and share information and experiences.



## What will happen at a **PlayConnect** Playgroup?

**PlayConnect** Playgroups meet weekly for two hours. Sessions are run by a skilled Development Worker. During playgroup sessions, caregivers and children join in a variety of play experiences, practice skills and have fun.

At a **PlayConnect** Playgroup you may find:

- > Smaller group sizes
- > Structured routines
- > Visual aids
- > Modelling of play and social activities
- > Positive encouragement
- > And a range of activities designed around the interests and needs of each individual family.

Families and carers will also receive information about other services for children within their community.

*"when I first started going, I didn't know anyone else with a child with communication and social delays, so meeting other parents was great for me, a relief in a way. In other groups it seemed hard to join in and other parents didn't understand why my child behaves the way they do".*

*PlayConnect Parent, Cairns, QLD.*



## How will **PlayConnect** Playgroups benefit our family?

**PlayConnect** can help children build their skills in:

- > Coping with change
- > Following instructions
- > Communication
- > Taking turns

Parents and caregivers say playgroups are beneficial because they are able to connect with other families, share experiences and information and support each other.

## Will my family be able to speak with child health specialists?

**PlayConnect** is not therapy based however your **PlayConnect** Development Worker can provide you with information about strategies for play and specialist services for your child in your local area. You can also contact Playgroup Australia for advice about children with developmental delays at playgroup on 1800 790 335.

## Is there a cost to families?

The Australian Government has funded **PlayConnect** until 2015, this funding will enable families to access **PlayConnect** at minimal cost. Some **PlayConnect** Playgroups may choose to undertake certain activities that are not covered by the funding therefore families may be asked to make a contribution.