



Uniting Church **Playgroup**

Playgroup Ideas

Term 3, 2010

Compiled by the Resource Centre for Children and Family Ministry



Playgroup Ideas — Term 3, 2010

Dear reader or browser,

We are happy that you have opened this resource; and we hope it will be a help to you in planning a program for your church-based playgroup.

In order to continue producing this kind of resource, we need to hear from you. So please take the time to let us know how you are using the resource and to give us your suggestions for future editions. Send your response — you can use this feedback form if you wish — to hharding@sa.uca.org.au

Thanks, and God's blessings to you and the families you support,

Heidi

Heidi Jane Harding, Children's Mission Planner, Uniting Church in South Australia.

FEED BACK FORM

Name and location of **your playgroup**

Your name and your role in the playgroup.....

Number and ages of children attending your playgroup

Special features of your playgroup

.....

.....

How many **Playgroup Ideas** documents have you looked at before this?.....

What have you found useful in **Playgroup Ideas**?.....

.....

.....

What improvements can you suggest for **Playgroup Ideas**?

.....

.....

Any other comments?.....

.....

Term 4, 2010 Here are the themes we expect to be featuring. We'd love your contribution of ideas and suggestions.

- OUR EARTH
- FISH
- PUMPKINS
- THE STORY OF QUEEN ESTHER
- OUR PAGEANT
- NOSES
- GUITARS
- GARDENS
- FAMILY AND FRIENDS
- CHRISTMAS (SHEPHERDS STORY)

• Introduction

Term 3 2010 Playgroup Ideas

This resource is designed to help leaders of Christian playgroups in planning their program.

This resource is not a set curriculum; it provides ideas that you may pick and choose from or adapt to your own situation. The themes and activity ideas can fit into whatever format you have established for your playgroup.

This **Playgroup Ideas Resource** often ties in with the **Family Planner** which is a free gift from the Uniting Church to families. Churches can download the planner from: <http://mrn.sa.uca.org.au/helps/childrens-ministry/family-planner.html>

A **Playgroup Handbook**, which provides information about starting and running a playgroup is available on the same web site.

Faith Enrichment Ideas

Playgroups organised by churches and staffed by Christians serve young families in many ways. Their Christian character is shown through the development of caring relationships. Some Christian playgroups also introduce Christian concepts into their program through activities, songs and stories.

We respect the view of some churches that playgroup is only pre-evangelical, with a policy not to mention anything 'Christian' unless the topic is brought up by the parent or carer. However, we are suggesting small and gentle ways that can open up conversation about faith.

Many parents have tried to attend Sunday church services with their children but have stopped attending because the service didn't cater for children, was not at a convenient time for their family or they left feeling uninspired. Other parents have never made attending traditional church worship a part of their family lifestyle. A playgroup can be an alternative 'church' experience *if* the playgroup provides opportunities for the family to explore the Christian faith.

Our greatest gift is Jesus, so let's not hide him from those that we care about simply because we are afraid to offend. This **Playgroup Ideas Resource** provides a range of Faith Enrichment Ideas. Playgroup leaders can use one or more of these suggestions to introduce a faith dimension into the playgroup session in a natural way.

The parents and carers who come into the church for playgroup know that the organisers are Christian, so they would find it reasonable to have some appropriate faith discussion or activity. It's important to state in your playgroup information posters and brochures that you do have some Christian content in your playgroup program.

You know the families who attend your playgroup, so you can best decide what is appropriate for their situation.

Theme Ideas This Term

Week 1	Winter
Week 2	Trees
Week 3	Blue Jeans
Week 4	Art
Week 5	Science
Week 6	Bridges
Week 7	Fathers
Week 8	Farms
Week 9	Red
Extra Week	Chickens

Note: Throughout this resource the term 'parent' is used for the parent, relative or other carer who brings a child to playgroup.

Additional Resources

Music

The songs we suggest are mostly from Playschool. Many parents are already familiar with them and this helps with the sing-a-long! Playschool CD's are available at the ABC stores and often at department stores such as Target.

Here are a few that we have specifically mentioned in this resource. You won't need all of these resources as you don't need to do every song listed each week, and chances are you will know many of them anyway!



Musical Fun

This pack includes **Oomba Baroomba** and **There's a Bear in There**.
Price \$14.95 ABC Shop



Sing-A-Long Songs

Price: \$9.95 ABC Shop



This pack includes **Playschool Favourites** and **Hullabaloo**.
Price: \$14.95 ABC Shop



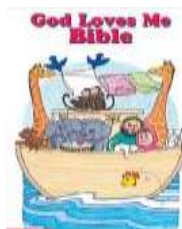
The New Useful Book has the sheet music to many popular songs and activities that suit the theme of the songs, it is 'a very useful book'!

Price: \$19.95 ABC Shop

Story Books

We have suggested a variety of story books to fit with the theme of each week. These are simply suggestions and you can use whatever best suits your group and that are available on your bookshelf or from the local library.

Bible Story Books



We recommend that you have a children's story Bible.

We really like the Candle story Bibles; the *God Loves Me Bible* is especially good for a young group.

The Ralph Milton *Family Story Bible* (available from Media Com) is also quite good.



MediaCom

Website: <http://www.mediacom.org.au> Online orders & browsing available!

Visit: 14 Eton Rd. Keswick 5035, South Australia

Phone toll free: 1-800-811-311

Email: admin@mediacom.org.au

WINTER (Winter in Australia is in June, July and August)

Greet people as they arrive. Talk about the weather and about 'winter' clothes they are wearing. Why are they wearing [a jumper] today? What clothing will they remove when they come inside? Why?

ACTIVITY IDEAS

- **Winter and summer clothing:** Have a variety of clothing (from swim togs to parkas) in a pile. Children with their parents name and sort the items into a 'summer' box with a picture of a sun on the front or a 'winter' box with a picture of a cloud and rain on the front.
- ☺ **Winter scarves:** Cut polar fleece fabric into scarf lengths. Children who are old enough to use a scissors cut a fringe in the ends. All children can draw a design on the scarf to distinguish theirs from the others.

Encourage children to throw their scarf up in the air and catch it on an arm, leg, or head.

- **Snow scene:** We can't talk about winter (even in Australia) without mentioning snow. Ice scrapings from your freezer make a pretty good substitute for snow. Show a bowlful to the children. Let them touch it. Explain that in some places where it is really cold in winter, there is snow instead of rain. [You can leave out the bowl of ice to show that snow melts to water when it warms up.] Create a snow scene on black or dark blue paper. *You can glue on a snowman shape (or three circles to form a snowman). Add 'snow' with small piece of rough textured sponge, dipped in white paint. Scattered snowflakes all over the page for a snow flurry or lots of spots on the ground for a snow drift.*
- **Playgroup soup:** Make a warm snack for a cold winter day. Ask each child/family to bring one vegetable, eg a potato, a piece of pumpkin, several beans. As they arrive, take their vegetables with thanks. An adult prepares the soup in an area that is safe, but visible to children. Wash and/or peel the vegetables. Cut into very small bite-size pieces. Place them in boiling water or stock in a crock-pot. You may add canned tomato soup for extra flavour. Cook as long as possible. If children are old enough to eat with spoons, put the soup into cups and allow to cool down before serving. With younger children, process the soup in a blender to a drinkable consistency. (See 'Stone Soup')
- ☺ **Feeling hot and cold:** Children identify temperature variations. Prepare five clear plastic bottles half-filled with water: one frozen; one refrigerated; one room temperature; one slightly warm, one as hot as can be comfortably held. With their parents, children note that the bottles all look the same, but they feel different. Children hold each bottle and tell how it feels; parents coach them in temperature words: *This feels hot . . . cold. . . colder. Children arrange bottles from hottest to coldest.*

BOOKS TO SHARE Find books in your local library or parents' collections about winter, eg



Big Rain Coming
by Katrina
Germein and
Bronwyn
Bancroft



Stone Soup There are many versions of the myth including this one by John Muth and an older version by Marcia Brown



Guess How Much I Love You in the Winter by Sam McBratney
Illustrated by Anita Jeram

NURSERY RHYMES AND SONGS

- Rain, rain, go away little (Johnny) wants to play. (Substitute children's names)
- Weather: Whether the weather be fine, or whether the weather be not; whether the weather be cold, or whether the weather be hot; we'll weather the weather, whatever the weather — whether we like it or not.
- Mitten song: thumbs in the thumb holes . . .
- I hear thunder

FAITH ENRICHMENT IDEAS

- **Key faith concept:** God loves and takes care of us
- **Bible verse:** Suppose two people lie down together. Then they'll keep warm. But how can one person keep warm alone? (Ecclesiastes 4:11)

- **Talk about:** ways we keep warm in winter, particularly how nice it can be cuddle together.
- **Wonder:** I wonder why God made some times hot and some times cold.
- **Pray:** Thank you, God, for giving us ways to keep warm when it's cold. Amen.

TREES

May be linked with National Tree Day (traditionally 1 August)

ACTIVITY IDEAS

- ☺ **Hug a tree:** If possible, take a walk outside and look at trees. Children with parents can count the trees in the yard then go to one tree. Look at and talk about the tree: How big is it? What colour is it? Touch the bark: What does it feel like? Find a leaf (on the ground, if possible), what does it look like? Take the leaf inside to make a leaf print. If there are seeds around, collect the seeds.
 - **Climb a tree:** If possible, give children a chance to climb up into a suitable tree.
 - ☺ **Leaf Print:** Lay a tree leaf flat on newspaper with the vein side up. Use a roller to cover the leaf with poster paint. Carefully pick up the leaf, turn it over and press it on to white paper to make a print. Lift the leaf carefully, avoid dragging. Make just one leaf or several prints.
 - ☺ **Playgroup tree:** Paint a tree trunk and some bare branches on a strip of butcher paper. Each person (children and grown ups) draw around their hands on paper (use several shades of green or include 'autumn' colours). Cut out the hand shapes. Write the person's name on the shape. Attach the shapes to the tree as leaves.

Talk about what else you might find on a tree besides leaves: eg birds, nests, bugs, fruit, flowers. You may add the items mentioned to your playgroup tree.

- ☺ **Trees in the wind:** Children pretend to be trees as you talk about trees. Identify the parts of the tree trunk (child's body), roots (child's feet), branches (child's arms). Trees stand straight and tall, roots in the ground, branches reaching out. Trees sway when the wind blows. Leader pretends to be the wind and moves around the area: 'When the wind blows from here, how do the trees sway?'
- **Great oaks from little acorns grow:** Talk about the growth cycle of trees. If children have collected seeds, talk about seeds dropped on the ground, grow very slowly from seedlings to small trees, to larger and larger trees. Big trees grow seeds, seeds drop to the ground . . . Children can mime this process and/or you can use a poster or draw on a whiteboard or use photos to show it.

BOOKS TO SHARE Find books in your local library or parents' collections about trees, eg



Echidna and the Shade Tree, by Pamela Lofts based on a story of the Jaru people of Western Australia



The Puriri Tree, by Merito Tawhara & Nikki Slade Robinson



The Giving Tree by Sol Silverstein

NURSERY RHYMES AND SONGS

- I had a little nut tree
- Kookaburra sits in the gold gum tree
- Give me a home among the gum trees

FAITH ENRICHMENT IDEAS

- **Key faith concept:** God made the world: trees.
- **Activity:** If children make leaf prints, write the Bible verse on the prints.
- **Read or tell:** the Bible story of Zacchaeus (Luke 17:1-9) who climbed a tree to have a better view of Jesus
- **Wonder:** I wonder why God made trees . . .
- **Pray:** Thank you, God, for trees. Amen.
- **Bible verse:** GOD made all kinds of trees grow from the ground, trees beautiful to look at and good to eat. Genesis 2:8-10 (The Message)

Blue Jeans

May be linked with Jeans for Genes Day (6 August)

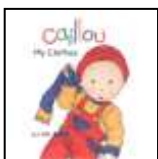
Encourage everyone to wear jeans today. Consider having information about Jeans for Genes Day and allow people to make a donation to the Children's Medical Research Institute if they wish (see www.jeansforgenes.org.au)

ACTIVITIES

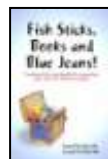
- **Guest:** If it is appropriate you may invite someone who works in medical research or someone who has been helped by their work to visit and talk to the children about genetic defects and what people are trying to do to prevent them. More importantly, talk about how each person is an individual, each person is different from others. How can children best relate to others who seem different from themselves and their family.
- ☺ **Jeans on parade:** Children and adults show the jeans they are wearing. An MC uses comparative descriptive words comparing pairs of people and their jeans: bigger and smaller; darker and lighter; tighter and looser. . .
- ☺ **Denim collage:** Visit your local Op Shop and purchase several items made of different kinds of denim. Cut the denim cloth into small pieces of various shapes. Children glue the denim shapes onto card to make a denim crazy-quilt.
- **Pocket bean bags:** Carefully cut out the distinctive jeans pockets from old jeans (see above). Make them into beanbags. Put a handful of dried beans in the pocket and use a sewing machine to stitch the opening closed. Children can help with the filling or the beanbags can be made ahead of time. Parents and children in groups of four toss and catch the beanbag.
- ☺ **Dressing dolls or paper dolls:** Have dolls of different sizes with jeans to fit each doll. Children choose the jeans that will fit and put them on the doll. If the jeans have zips or press stud fasteners, children practice using these.
- **Weaving** Children use a microscope to look at a piece of denim fabric. Notice that there are lines going up and down; other lines going side to side because the material is woven. Then they can look at their own jeans to see if they can see the lines of thread.
Children try their own weaving. Begin with a sheet of blue paper in which you cut slits (two slits for 2-year olds, 3 slits for three year olds . . .) Parents help children weave strips of paper of a different shade of blue through the slits.



BOOKS TO SHARE Find books in your local library or parents' collections about clothes, particularly blue jeans, eg



My Clothes, Board book 'dictionary' of clothing



Fish sticks, books and blue Jeans
an activity book by Caryn Fitzgerald,
Sami Fitzgerald (age 6)

NURSERY RHYMES AND SONGS

- We're all wearing blue jeans; our blue jeans, our blue jeans.
We're all wearing blue jeans, our blue jeans today. (tune Frerre Jacques)
(insert children's names: Kathy's wearing blue jeans . . .)

FAITH ENRICHMENT IDEAS

- **Key faith concept:** God loves us and provides what we need.
- **Read or tell:** a story about someone giving clothes to a less fortunate person.
- **Wonder:** I wonder what we can do to help people who are sick (to tie into the CMRI) or who are poor and don't have warm clothes (to tie with the Bible verse).
- **Pray:** Thank you, God, for the clothes and food we need. Show us how we can help others. Amen.
- **Bible verse:** When I needed clothes, you gave me clothes to wear. (Matthew 25:36, adapted)

Art and artists

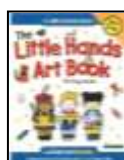
May be linked with the SA Living Artists Festival (30 July – 22 August)

- **Guest Artist:** Invite a 'living artist' from your community to visit your playgroup to talk with the children, show their artwork and possibly demonstrate their technique. This may be done with small groups of children in a quiet corner rather than to the whole group. Note that the artist need not be a 'professional'. Anyone who paints, does photography, embroidery, woodwork, etc as a hobby may qualify.
- **Little artists** (1) Give children a chance to practice a technique demonstrated by a guest artist. (2) Give children a chance to copy a picture they see in a book or picture display. (3) Arrange two or three 'still life' scenes. Let children use a digital camera to take photos of the item. Print out the photos for the children. (4) Give each child a large paper and invite them to paint their favourite thing. Part of being an 'artist' is to have other people see your creation. At the end of your session show off what each child has made.
- ☺ **Drawing to music:** Demonstrate drawing to music: When the music is loud you make big lines; when the music is soft, you make small lines; when the music stops, you stop, etc Have one long piece of paper laid out on a low table. Each person (children and grown ups) selects one crayon or marker. They take a place around the paper. When the music starts, they draw to the music. When the music stops, they stop. Play about 10 seconds of instrumental music. Stop it. Ask each person to take a step to the right. Repeat several times. All the artists can sign their names to the joint creation.
- **Art Gallery:** Display paintings, drawings, photography, etc in different styles on a wall where kids can look at it and talk about it. The key question is: What do you see in this picture? A second possible question: How do you think the artist made this picture? Alternatively, have some picture books that illustrate different art styles for children to look at and talk about.
- ☺ **Statues:** Show children some figurines or statues of children. Note that art can be three-dimensional. Challenge children to 'stand/sit like the person in the statue'. With older children play the game of 'statues' in which children move with music and 'freeze' as statues when the music stops.

BOOKS TO SHARE Find books in your local library or parents' collections about art and artists



Adriana Art for the young at heart (Adriana Steele-Card)
This book features poems and collages. Look at the artwork and think about how it was made.



The Little Hands Art Book by Judy Press
introduces key materials for creating art



My World of Color by Margaret Wise Brown

Also check out books introducing artists, eg *Camille and the sunflowers*, *Degas and the dancers* . . .

NURSERY RHYMES AND SONGS

- There's a spot over here and a spot over there. . . (Playschool) Have cards illustrating various art shapes, eg spots, stripes, circle, swirl) and add a verse for each shape. Move it around: here, there, someone's ear, someone's hair.
- I can sing a rainbow

FAITH ENRICHMENT IDEAS

- **Key faith concept:** God made us and gives us abilities
- **Read or tell:** the story of Jesus welcoming children (Matthew 19:13-15)
- **Talk about:** Jesus lived a long time ago. We don't really know what he looked like.
- **Look at** illustrations of the story in various art styles, eg from several different books. With each illustration. . .
- **Wonder:** I wonder what the artist was thinking when they made this picture of Jesus.
- **Pray:** Thank you, God, for giving us imaginations and the ability to make pictures. Amen.
- **Bible verse:** Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me.' (Matthew 19:14)

Science

May be linked with National Science Week (14-22 August)

ACTIVITY IDEAS

- **Guest scientist:** Invite a scientist from your community to visit your playgroup to talk with the children, show their work and possibly demonstrate a technique they use. This may be done with small groups of children in a quiet corner rather than to the whole group. Note that the scientist need not be a 'professional'; they may be a retired person, a student, or an amateur enthusiast. Consider contacting your local high school to see if some students can come and give a demonstration.
- **Science lab:** Set up a Science Lab where children can do a number of scientific experiments, using the 'scientific method' of hypothesis and testing.
Start with a question: What do you think will happen when we . . .
Do several experiments to test the hypothesis.
Decide if your hypothesis was correct or not: did what we expect to happen actually happen?
A true scientist would then ask why and come up with more hypotheses and experiments. But we won't go that far.
Play dough in water. Fill a large clear bowl about 2/3 full of water. Give child a ball of play dough.
Q: What will happen if you drop the play dough in the water? Try it. Was the child's hypothesis correct? Repeat. Try shaping the play dough as a flat pancake. Try shaping it as a boat.
Marble in a pan. Have several identical cake-baking pans. One is empty. One is filled with about 2 cm of flour. The base of another is covered with a layer of paper and the base of another with soft fabric or lambskin. **Q:** What will happen if you drop the marble into this pan? Try it. Was the child's hypothesis correct? Repeat for the other pans.
☺ **Magnet.** Set up an area with a number of vertical surfaces including some that will and some that will not attract a magnet. **Q:** What will happen if you put a magnet near the board? Try it. Was the child's hypothesis correct? Repeat with other surfaces.
You may try using the magnet under a sheet of light card to try to move cars (one plastic; one metal) across the surface.
☺ **Colour mixing.** Use small quantities of poster paint. Mix them in a small container with a stirring stick. Children use the paint to paint a picture. Begin with a dot of a light colour (yellow). **Q:** What do you think will happen if we add a drop of red paint? Try it. Was the child's hypothesis correct? Repeat for two other colours so the child will have three colours to paint with.
An experiment suggested by your guest scientist.

BOOKS TO SHARE Find books in your local library or parents' collections about science and scientists, eg



Books from the **Simple Science** series, eg **My apple** by Kay Davies and Wendy Oldfield

Books from the **Science Early Learners** series, eg **Push** by Bob Graham

NURSERY RHYMES AND SONGS

- O dear, what can the reason be . . . Develop your own song using the tune of 'O, dear, what can the matter be' and referring to experiments children do, eg. ' . . . sometimes the play dough will float'.

FAITH ENRICHMENT IDEAS

- **Key faith concept:** God made us with brains to explore and learn.
- **Activity:** Talk about what children have learned. Make the Bible verse into a certificate. (see appendix)
- **Wonder:** I wonder what God wants us to do with our brains
- **Pray:** Thank you, God, for giving us brains for learning about your world. Amen.
- **Bible Verse:** I learned a lesson from what I saw. Proverbs 24:32

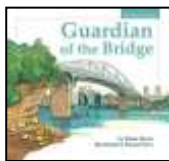
BRIDGES

May be linked with the Children's Book Week theme: Across the bridge

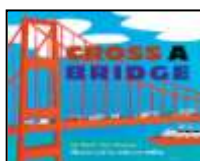
ACTIVITY IDEAS

- ☺ **Billy Goats Gruff:** A storyteller tells a pre-school child-friendly version of the story of *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. Use lots of expression, different voices for the different goats. Involve children in making the noises of goats on the bridge.
- **Make a bridge:** Children use boxes and blocks or Duplo of various shapes to create bridges that they can run toy cars over and boats under.
- **London bridge:** Show a picture of London bridge. If children are old enough to play an organised game, play 'London Bridge' is falling down. With younger children, encourage them to make a bridge with their body (bend over, hands and feet on the floor). Parents can walk their hands across this bridge (stopping for a tickle at some point). Children can make the bridge higher or lower. Children can let their bridge fall down.
- ☺ **Local bridges:** Display photos of several bridges (large and small) in your area that children will have seen. Encourage parents and children to talk about these bridges: where they are, when they go across the bridge. If there is a bridge quite near to your meeting place, consider taking a walk and exploring it.
- ☺ **Walk/Crawl across the bridge:** Make a 'bridge' with a plank stretched between two low sturdy chairs. Parents help children walk across the bridge.

BOOKS TO SHARE Find books in your local library or parents' collections about bridges, eg



Guardian of the Bridge
by Diana Harris
Marking the 50th
anniversary of the
opening of the
Auckland Harbour Bridge



**Cross a
Bridge**
by Ryan
Ann
Hunter



**Let's Try it Out
with Towers
and Bridges**
by Simon
Seymour and
Nicole Fauteux

NURSERY RHYMES AND SONGS

- London Bridge is falling down
- Build it up, build it up, build it higher; build it up up up unto the sky (Playschool)
- Try this one to the tune of 'This old man'. You can make a bridge with your forearms, linking fingers.
This old man build a bridge, built a bridge for you and me.
It's a long bridge, strong bridge, right across the stream.
Yes its' there for you and me.

FAITH ENRICHMENT IDEAS

Notes: With small children avoid the temptation to use bridges as images of connecting people. Bridges were mainly unknown in Bible times. People crossed rivers by fords or by boat/ferry.

- **Key faith concept:** God made us with creative brains and hands for building things.
- **Read or tell:** a simple version of the story of the Hebrew people building the wall around Jerusalem (Nehemiah 3-5)
- **Talk about:** God protected the people and helped them find a clever way to work.
- **Wonder:** I wonder what kinds of things God helps people build.
- **Pray:** Thank you, God, for giving people brains and hands to build things. Amen.
- **Bible verse:** God gives us everything we need. (1 Timothy 6:17, modified)

Fathers

May be linked with Fathers' Day (5 September)

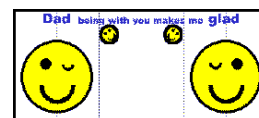
Although the majority of children in Australia today have a relationship (and mostly a good relationship) with their father, the reality is that many children have no father in their life or have an unhealthy relationship with their father or father-figure.

None-the-less Fathers' Day is a part of our culture. To ignore it would be a disservice to children and their parents. Hopefully you will be aware of the family situation of the families in your playgroup and will handle the situation sensitively and avoid making and expressing inappropriate assumptions.

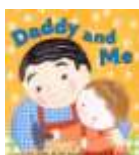
You may invite each family to bring along a photo of the most important man in the child's life.

ACTIVITY IDEAS

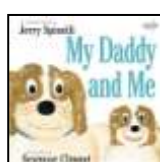
- ☺ **Grandfather's story:** Invite the grandfather of one of the children or another older man to visit playgroup and talk to the children about some things they have learned by being a dad.
- ☺ **Dad names:** Dad, Daddy, Pa . . . we have many different names for fathers in English as well as in other languages spoken by people in your group. If families have brought photos of important men in their lives, they can show the picture and tell the group what they call the man. The group can repeat the name they use: This is Caleb's [tata].
- ☺ **Playing family:** Set out a playhouse or a special area with dolls and household equipment and encourage children to play house/family. What does dad do at home? What do other people in the family do?
- ☺ **Dress up like dad:** Provide an assortment of clothing and encourage children to 'dress up like dad'. Parents help children name the clothing items and practice dressing skills: buttons, snaps, zippers, legs in trousers, arms in sleeves, etc. A full-length mirror will make this more fun.
- ☺ **A card for Dad:** The pattern in the appendix is from the DLTK Growing Together web site. Children can colour in the smiley faces, and/or draw a picture or glue a picture of themselves in the centre panel.



STORIES TO SHARE Find stories in your local library or parents' collections about dads, eg



Daddy and Me
by Karen Katz



My Daddy and Me
by Jerry Spinelli



My Daddy and Me
by Tina McNaughton

NURSERY RHYMES AND SONGS

- Bye baby bunting, Daddy's gone a hunting
- Dance to your daddy

FAITH ENRICHMENT IDEAS

- **Key faith concept:** God loves us and gives us parents to take care of us.
- **Activity:** Add a Christian message to the children's card.
- Read or tell: The story of Jairus and his daughter (Mark 5 21–24, 35–43) or from a children's bible story book.
- **Talk about:** God created all kinds of families. All families are different. Dads can be important parts of the family.
- **Wonder:** I wonder why God gave us dads. I wonder how God wants us to treat our dads.
- **Pray:** Thank you, God, for families and for dads. Amen.
- **Bible Verse:** Respect your father and your mother. (Exodus 20:12, Good News Bible)

Farms

May be linked with the Adelaide Show (3-11 September)

The self-sustaining all-purpose farm of children's stories has virtually disappeared in rural Australia today. It has been replaced with large agricultural businesses and hobby farms. Some of your children may live in or regularly visit rural areas. Some may have no such experiences. Adapt your program to suit your own children. You may choose to concentrate on: farm animals, or food from the farm, or life on a farm.

ACTIVITY IDEAS

- **Show stories:** If children have been to the Adelaide Show or another local agricultural show, have a corner where they can meet with a leader and tell the leader about their experience. The leader is there to listen, not to tell of their own experiences.
- ☺ **My life on a farm:** One of your playgroup parents or volunteers may talk to the children about their life on a farm. They may use photos to illustrate their story.
- **Animal names:** Display pictures of a variety of farm animals. Parents talk with their children about the animals: Name the animal (a pig). When have you seen a real (pig)? What do you know about the animal (pigs)? If families use a language other than English in their homes, they can tell what the animal is called in their language.
- ☺ **Play dough farm:** Children use small pieces of hardening play dough to model various farm animals. They can make a 'farmyard' on a paper plate or rectangular tray and take the farm home.
- **Farm game:** If children are old enough to play an organised game, play 'The farmer in the dell'. With younger children, encourage them to pretend to be (move like, make noises like) various farm animals as you sing 'Old MacDonald had a farm'.
- ☺ **Food from farms:** At snack time, look at the food and discuss where it comes from (You may show something like the McCain's Baby Peas advertisement that shows a girl with a farmer looking where the peas come from).

BOOKS TO SHARE Find some of the many books in your local library or parents' collections about farms, farm animals or agricultural shows, eg



Down on the Farm
by Merrily Kutner



Old MacDonald by
Rosemary Wells



The Big Red Barn by
Margaret Wise Brown

NURSERY RHYMES AND SONGS

- Old MacDonald had a farm
- Baa, baa, black sheep
- Oats, peas, beans and barley grow . . .

FAITH ENRICHMENT IDEAS

- **Key faith concept:** God loves us and gives us the food we need.
- **Activity:** Give each child a bean (or another large seed that they can plant at home. Children put the seed in an envelope (seed packet) and take it home to plant. (see appendix)
- **Read or tell:** the parable of the seeds from Matthew 13:3-8 or from a children's Bible story book.
- **Wonder:** I wonder how God made plants and animals to grow.
- **Pray:** Thank you, God, for giving us good food to eat.
- **Bible verse:** God is the One who gives seed to the farmer and bread for food. (2 Corinthians 9:10)

RED

Invite everyone to come to playgroup wearing something red.

ACTIVITY IDEAS

- **Red light means stop:** Have a picture of a traffic light. Talk about red lights meaning stop. Children walk around in a circle while you show a green light, but stop when you show a red light.
- **I spy:** Have some red items scattered around your meeting area so parents and children can play 'I spy with my little eye . . . something that's red and smells very nice' (a red rose) . . . something that's red and covers the doll house (a red roof), etc.
- **Red glasses:** Children make glasses or masks with red cellophane lenses. There's a simple pattern in the appendix.
- **Seeing the world in red:** Have some simple items (eg blocks) of various colours. Children look at each item. Then they look at them again through red-lens glasses/masks that they have made or that you provide. What changes: shape? size? colour? How is the colour different?
- **Red snack:** As a snack, children sample food that is naturally red, eg strawberries, red-beet, tomato (fresh sliced, or tomato puree/paste on a bread).
- 😊 **Red clothing:** If children are wearing red, give each one a chance to show their red clothing item. Children can repeat a description: Those are Mandy's red sneakers.
- 😊 **Little Red Riding Hood:** Tell or read a preschool child-friendly version of the story of a little girl who wore something red: Little Red Riding Hood.
- **Red pasting** Have a number of pictures of things that are red to make a red collage.

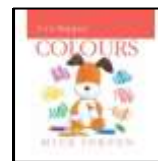
BOOKS TO SHARE Find books in your local library or parents' collections about colour, particularly red, eg



Red in the Flower Bed,
by Andrea Nepa is
about interracial
adoption.



Colour by Ella Doran, David
Goodman, Zoe Miller:
Photographs, graphics and
original artwork with intense
colours



**Kipper's
Book of
Colours**
by Mick
Inkpen

Don't forget Clifford, the big red dog books.

NURSERY RHYMES AND SONGS

- *I can sing a rainbow*
- We're all wearing red clothes; our red clothes, our red clothes.
We're all wearing red clothes, our red clothes today. (tune Frerre Jacques)
(insert children's names: Simon's wearing red clothes. . .)
- Red sky at night, sailors delight; red sky in the morning, sailors take warning.

FAITH ENRICHMENT IDEAS

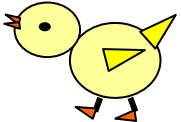
- **Key faith statement:** God made a colourful world.
- **Activity 1:** Compare the red sky rhyme with Jesus comments on the weather from Matthew 16:2,3.
- **Read or tell:** the story of the birth of Tamar's twins (Genesis 38:27–30).
- **Activity 2:** A red string around the arm helped identify one of Tamar's twins. Tie red ribbons (with their names written on them) around children's arms.
- **Wonder:** I wonder why God made red and so many other colours.
- **Pray:** Thank you, God, for our beautiful, colourful world. Amen

Chickens (or ducks)

These notes refer to chickens, but if it's easier for you to have duck resources, substitute ducks.

SOMETHING TO BRING: If any of the families have a collection of items with chicken/ motifs, ask them to bring along some non-breakable items for children to see.

ACTIVITY IDEAS

- ☺ **Guest:** Invite someone who knows about chickens or who has fowls for food or as pets. The visitor may talk briefly about their fowls— possibly emphasising how they provide eggs. If possible have a live chicken or duck that children can hold (or at least see up close).
- ☺ **Chicken feathers:** Have some chicken feathers for children to examine: look at, touch and describe. Parents can tickle their child with the feather.
- **Walk like a chicken** Think about how chickens move. Children (and parents) walk like chicks or ducks, flap wings, peck food . . .
- **Chicken dance:** If children are old enough to do an organised activity, try the chicken dance (with a little bit of this and little bit of that, and shake your tail).
- ☺ **Chicken shapes:** Use basic shapes to make a picture of a chicken. Use the pattern in the appendix and have the shapes pre-cut. Parents and children identify the shapes, then paste them onto paper as shown. Draw on the legs and eye. 
- **Egg snack:** Consider having hard boiled eggs for snack time. Egg allergies are growing, check your medical forms to see if anyone has a serious exposure allergy to eggs!
- ☺ **Cheep like a chick:** Demonstrate a range of chicken sounds, baby's peep, cheep to rooster's crow. Let the children practice making the sound. Think of how the chicken might sound when she's happy. Think how the chicken might say 'be careful' . . . when they're hurt . . . to tell someone they like them. . .

BOOKS TO SHARE Find stories in your local library or parents' collections about chickens. There are some oldies that are still goodies, eg



The Little Red Hen, many versions



The Sky is Falling, many versions



Noddy' Pet Chicken by Edith Blyton

NURSERY RHYMES AND SONGS

- Henny Penny, my fat hen . . .
- Five little ducks went out one day (Or Five little chicks . . Mother hen called cluck, cluck, cluck, cluck)

FAITH ENRICHMENT IDEAS

- **Key faith concept:** God made the world: chickens and ducks.
- **Activity:** In addition to other chicken/duck sounds try: how would a chicken say thank you to God . . . please help me, God . . .
- **Read or tell:** Jesus wants to comfort people like a mother hen (Matthew 23:37). Talk about how safe the little chicken would feel if it was tucked under the mother hen's wings.
- **Wonder:** I wonder why God gave chickens/ducks feathers.
- **Pray:** Thank you, God, for chickens and all the other animals you put in the world.
- **Bible verse:** God made . . . all the animals in the world. (Jeremiah 27:5 modified)

Appendix

Certificate for week 5: Science



'I learned a lesson from what I saw.' Proverbs 24:32

Today
at playgroup

_____ Name of child

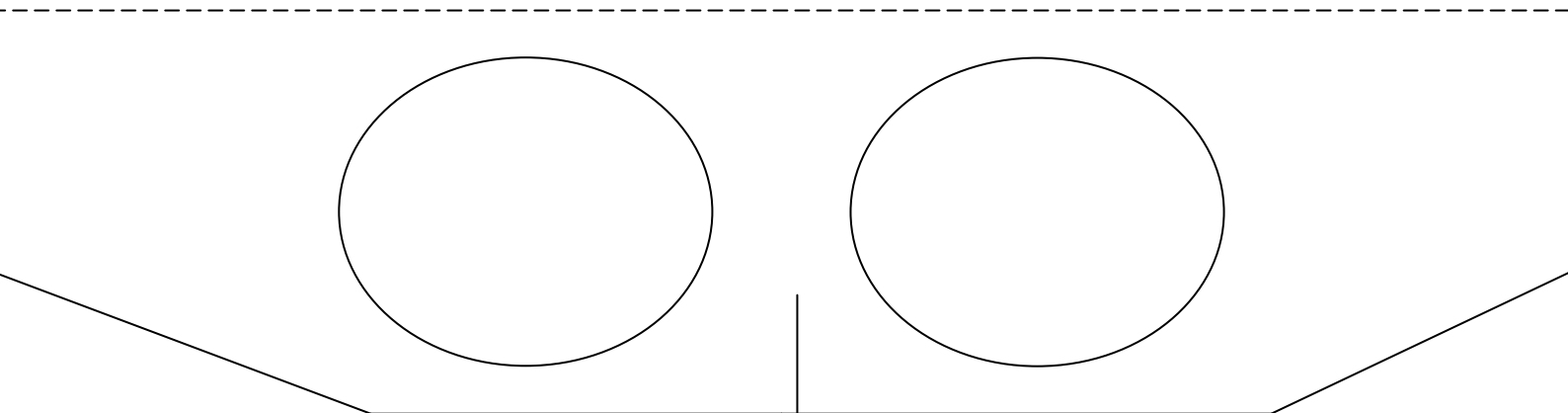
learned that

_____ Date

_____ Name of playgroup

Mask pattern for week 9: Red

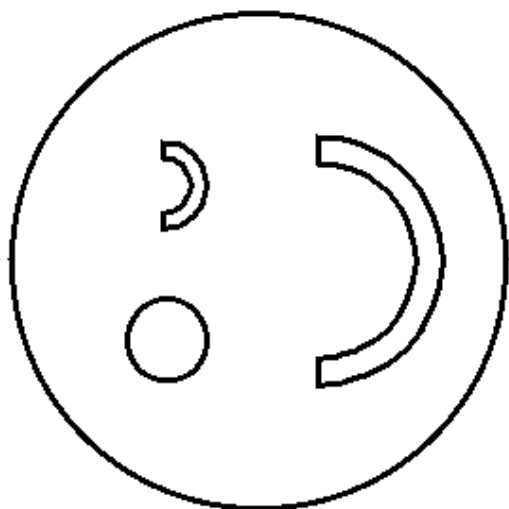
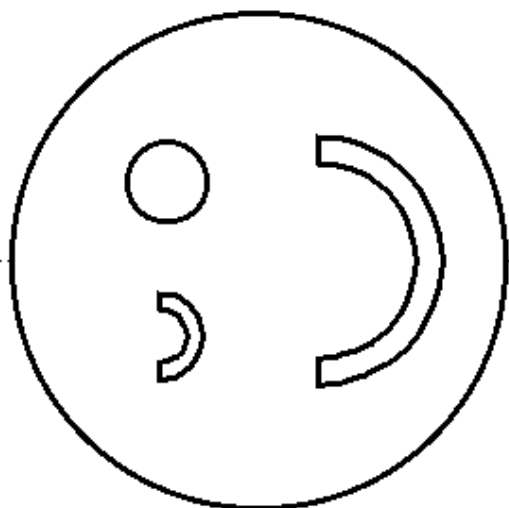
- Fold paper or light card in half. Place the straight edge of the pattern on the fold and cut out the mask shape and cut out the eye holes.
- Cut a piece of red cellophane (about 7.5 X 15 cm) and glue the cellophane inside the mask frame, covering the holes.
- Cut a length of ribbon long enough to tie around the child's head. Slip inside the mask frame, up against the fold.
- Glue the sides of the frame together.
- Fit the mask to the child, folding back at the slot to fit the child's nose.



glad

Dad being with you makes me

Dad



Card pattern for week 7: Fathers

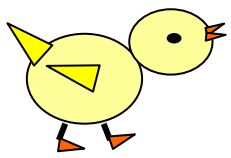
Fold card forward along inner most dotted lines and backward along outermost dotted lines.

Write a little note on the blank space in the center or glue a small photo of the child.

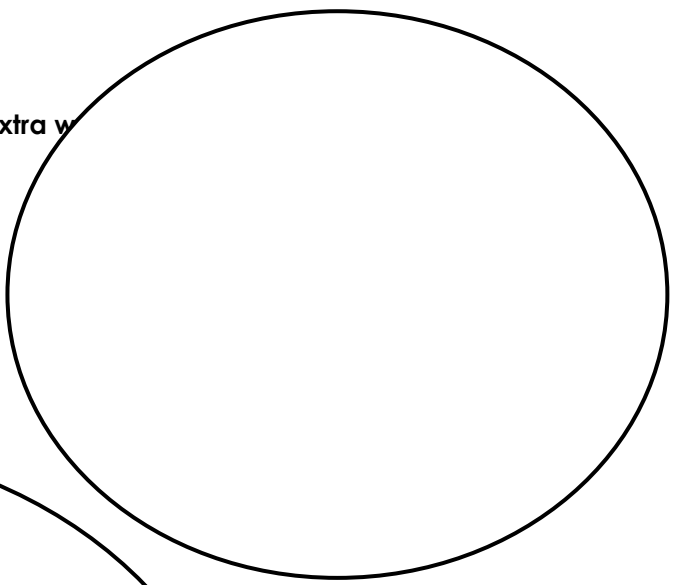
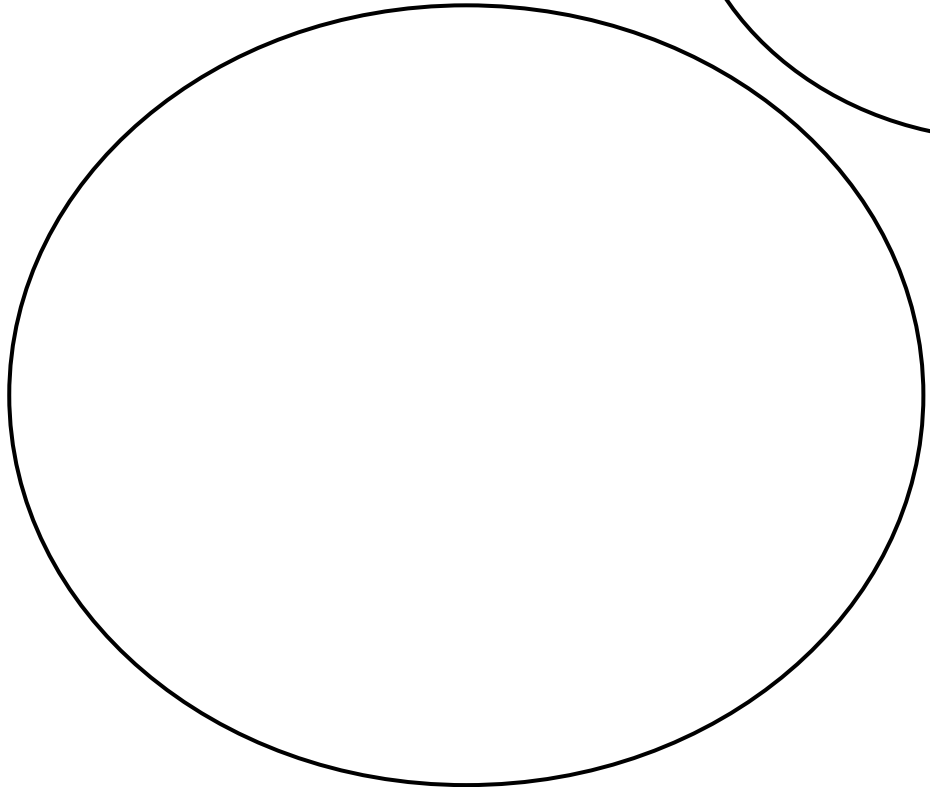
When you've done this, the front of the card should look like a happy face with two open eyes and the word Dad.

Open the card to reveal the secret message.

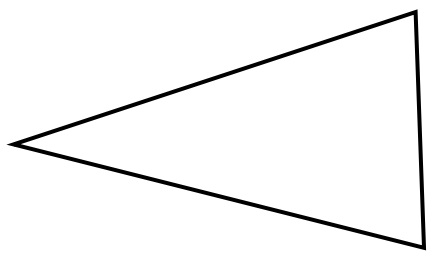
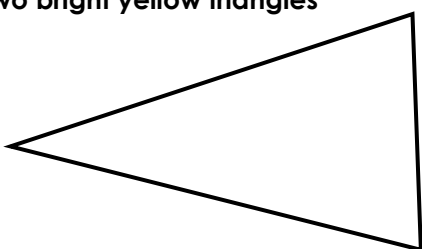
Chicken picture for extra w



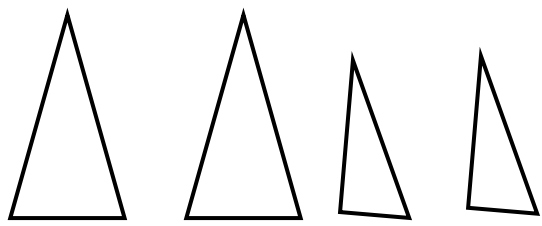
Cut two light yellow circles



Cut two bright yellow triangles

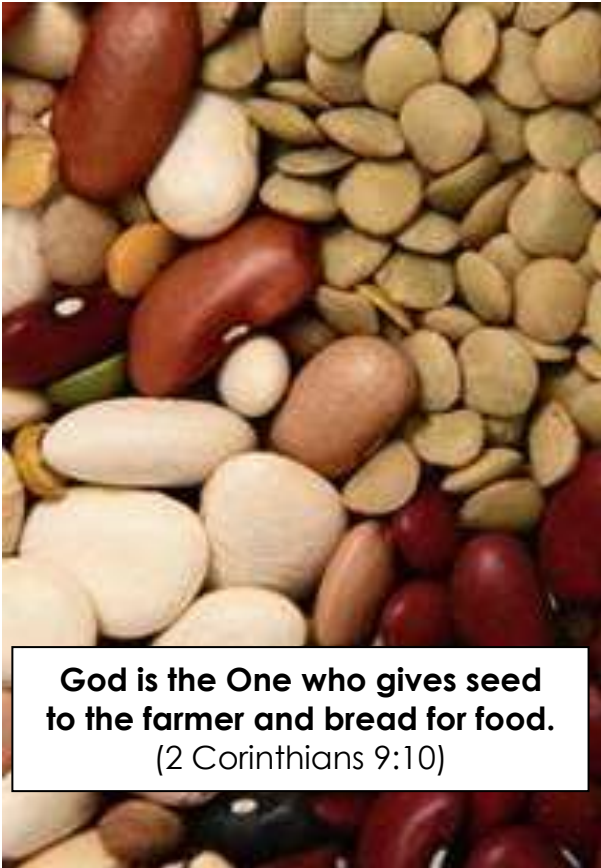


Cut four orange triangles



Seed packet for week 8: Farms

Front of packet



Back of packet

Grow a bean at home

- **Fill** a saucer or shallow bowl with water. Place beans in the water and soak several hours.
- **Wash** and rinse a glass jar to remove any remaining chemicals or spices.
- **Fold** 5 or 6 paper towels in half. Lay the sheets on top of each other and curl into a ring. Squeeze the paper towels into the quart jar and adjust so the outer layer of paper towels lies smoothly against the inside of the jar.
- Carefully **insert** a bean between the paper towels and the glass jar, a little more than halfway down the jar. Repeat with the other beans.
- **Place** the jar in a warm, bright place, like a kitchen window. Add water often to keep the paper towelling wet. Rotate the jar every day so that all the beans take turns facing the window.
- **Watch** the beans. They will begin to swell, then split. Then a small root will grow from the bottom of the bean. Soon, a small shoot will grow out of the top.
- You may then **transfer** the plants to your outside garden.