

## Is Playgroup for Babies too?

YES! Playgroup is about connecting with the families in your community and sharing the Gospel with them through who you are. The activities that facilitate this are craft and games for the children, singing and storytelling, morning tea and coffee. We tend to think that Playgroup is about the program we offer, but it's actually about the people we offer – ourselves and the other Christian men and women who attend. That's why it's so important to have Christians in your Playgroup and why it's a great place for Mums with babies; hungry for love, support and a bit of encouragement!

Not only is Playgroup for babies, but Playgroup is a great place for babies. There are fewer and fewer places children go where they interact with others of different ages, and this is a great strength of Playgroups. It's wonderful for older and younger children to learn to be and play together, so go for it!

### Did You Know?

Babies are built for learning. Every sensation -- touch, taste, smell, sight and sound -- electrifies the infant brain and helps it establish sensory connections that'll last a lifetime.

Babies build some of their earliest understanding about God through their experiences at church.

You can tap into their five senses and build a positive experience for babies using the following tips.

- **Sound** - When you sing or talk to babies, use Bible truths such as “God made the birds,” “Jesus loves you,” and “God made you.”
- **Sight** - Infants are stimulated by contrasting colours because they're easier to distinguish than similar colours, so decorate your room with contrasting colours.
- **Smell** - Keep rooms smelling fresh and clean, free of bad odours.
- **Taste** - Taste is a powerful sensation for babies, especially when it curbs hunger and brings comfort.
- **Touch** - Babies have incredibly strong grips when they grab your fingers. Holding babies or comforting them with a soothing touch also stimulates their brain development.

As babies grow into toddlers, use Bible thoughts, stories, and songs on a regular basis to help little ones learn about God in different ways.

Children of all ages will soak up something of the nature of God when they enter your church and are embraced by a loving, warm and safe community – what a beautiful start!

Grace and Peace,  
Louisa