




Module 4 Play in Libraries



Acknowledgement of Country

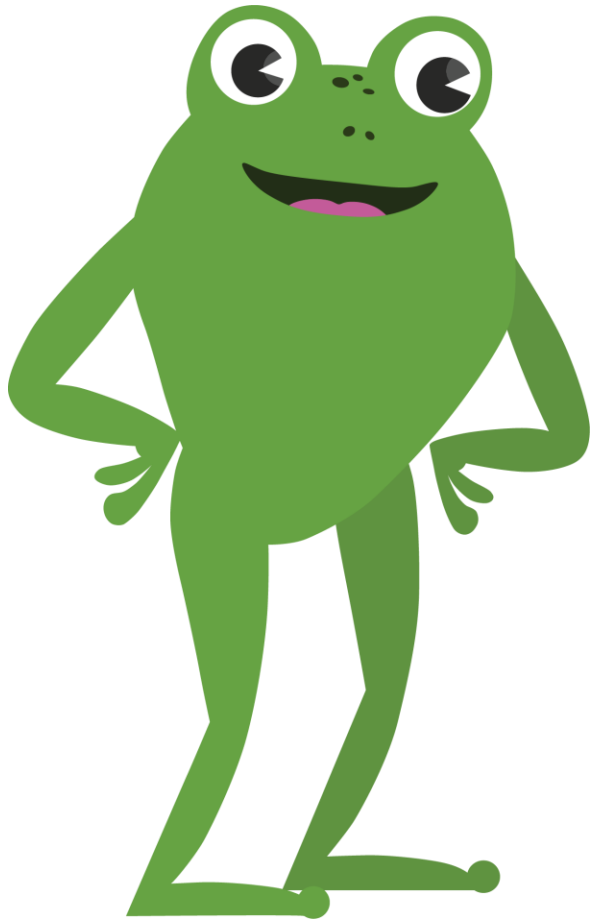


We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are located, and the land where you are today.

We acknowledge their custodianship of the land and elders past, present and emerging and we pay respects to their ancestors who came before them.



First 5 Forever



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Play in libraries

- Why is play important?
- What is play?
- How does it support early literacy?
- Incorporating play into library programs
- The role of adults in children's play
- Messaging to support understanding of play

The background is a solid teal color with several white, five-pointed stars of varying sizes scattered across the top and left sides.

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**Why do you think play
is important?**

To share your thoughts and see what others have shared,
click on the activity link

So why is play
important?





Play is foundational for learning and development

Play builds:

- Social competence
- Emotional maturity
- Physical health and wellbeing
- Language and cognitive skills
- Communication skills and general knowledge

Play supports social and emotional learning

- Work in groups/collaboration
- Confidence and resilience
- Navigate power and gender
- Decision making and problem solving
- Risk taking in a safe environment
- Pursue own interests
- Learn about the world



Play promotes physical development

- Fine and gross motor skills
- Hand-eye coordination
- Core stability and vestibular control
- Posture
- Self-control





Play is language rich

- Exploration and repetition of concepts
- Imagination through narrative
- Rich and varied communication
- Concepts and language
- Collaboration

Play helps develop cognitive skills

- Serve and return
- Executive function and self-regulation
- Inquiry and problem solving
- Calm and mindfulness
- Builds motivation towards learning





Play builds loving relationships

- Secure attachments
- Engagement and connection
- Model listening, love and care
- Share in pleasurable time together
- Nurturing guidance
- Communication and negotiation



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So what is play?

What is play?

- Play looks different for each age
- It's how children learn
- Builds mastery





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Think back to a memorable play experience between adults and children that you were involved in or observed

- What made it special?
- What do you think some of the characteristics of play might be?



Key characteristics of play

- **DIVERSE:** exploring and developing multiple skills simultaneously
- **MEANINGFUL:** mentally and physically engaging
- **PROCESS ORIENTED:** it's about the process not the product
- **ACTIVE:** mentally and physically involved
- **PLEASURABLE:** naturally motivating and satisfying
- **VOLUNTARY:** the child's choice
- **SELF-DIRECTED:** supported by the adult

Play is key to early literacy

- Labelling
- Imagination
- Problem solving
- Fine motor skills







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Look at these 2 common play resources

Can you link the question to the early literacy area it contributes to?

Link to early literacy areas

(Labelling, Imagination, Problem Solving, Fine Motor or Gross Motor)



- Can you name the parts of the doll?
- Can you rock your baby?
- What food does your baby eat? How are you going to feed her?
- Can you help your baby get dressed?
- Where are you taking your baby today?

Link to early literacy areas



- Can you name the parts of the doll?
Labelling
- Can you rock your baby?
Gross Motor
- What food does your baby eat? How are you going to feed her?
Problem Solving
- Can you help your baby get dressed?
Fine motor
- Where are you taking your baby today?
Imagination

Link to early literacy areas

(Labelling, Imagination, Problem Solving, Fine Motor or Gross Motor)



- What are the cows doing today?
- Where are they going to live?
- Can you jump over the animals?
- Name the animals. What sounds do they make?
- How do we stack the animals?

Link to early literacy areas

(Labelling, Imagination, Problem Solving, Fine Motor or Gross Motor)



- What are the cows doing today?
Imagination
- Where are they going to live?
Problem Solving
- Can you jump over the animals?
Gross Motor
- Name the animals. What sounds do they make?
Labelling
- How do we stack the animals?
Fine Motor

A decorative graphic consisting of seven light blue, five-pointed stars of varying sizes and orientations, arranged in a loose arc on the left side of the slide.

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The benefits of play in libraries

For libraries

- Provide a new program
- New library memberships
- Increased borrowing





For adults

- Chance to meet new people
- Understanding the 'why?'
- Quality time with their child

For children

- Make new friends
- Develop new skills
- Unstructured play
- Quality time with their parent/carer





Incorporating play in library programs

- What kind of program are you going to deliver?
- Standalone or connected to another program?
- What age group are you targeting?
- How long will your session run?
- What spaces are available?



Space



Toys and equipment



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Look at this list of activities



Can you identify which ones are not open-ended?

Which activity is not open-ended?

- Colouring in sheets with pens
- Blocks and cars set up on the floor
- Template collage
- Pens, paper, scissors, glue
- Wooden bead maze or maze board
- Sand tray with farm animals
- Musical instruments and scarves

Which activity is not open-ended?

- **Colouring in sheets with pens**
- Blocks and cars set up on the floor
- **Template collage**
- Pens, paper, scissors, glue
- Wooden bead maze or maze board
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Linking back to home



Linking to your collection



The role of adults in children's play

- Scaffolding to enhance learning and development
- Extend higher order thinking
- Executive functioning: making positive choices
- Awareness to emotions through nonverbal communication and facial expressions
- Problem solving
- Interested observers
- Engage joyfully!





Misconceptions about play

- Early development is simple and just happens
- Play is just for fun and not as effective as structured learning
- The best way to support play is to leave them to it
- Play is best delivered by experts or through structured learning programs



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**Overcoming misconceptions
about play**

Consider the following misconceptions and solutions

Misconception

Early development is simple and just happens

Play is just for fun and not as effective as structured learning

The best way to support children is to leave them to it

Play is best delivered by experts through structured learning programs



Key messaging

Brains are built over time based on children's experiences in the early years

Play is complex and a critical function of early development

Interaction and adult modelling helps children learn and develop

Interaction and conversation support learning and growth. Everyday family play is the best way to support this



Module 4 Play in Libraries

Congratulations!

You've now completed Module 4

Play in Libraries

