



“Always  
remember  
that you are  
**UNIQUE**  
just like  
everyone else.”

Margaret Mead



Playgroup SA offers support and resources to Playgroups around inclusion & disability, to help meet the needs of families and the community.

If you have any questions or feedback, please contact Playgroup SA on 1800 171 882.



Funded by the National Disability Insurance Agency



[www.playgroupsa.com.au](http://www.playgroupsa.com.au) • 1800 171 882



***PlayTogether***

*Being inclusive at  
Playgroup*



# What is a *PlayTogether* Playgroup?

Playgroups offer babies, toddlers and young children a wide variety of fun early learning experiences, and their carers an opportunity to gain support from each other. Playgroups have been shown to benefit children across all areas of their development.\* Playgroup SA supports Community Playgroups across South Australia.

PlayTogether is a program run by Playgroup SA that supports Playgroups be a welcoming and safe place for families with a child or adult with a disability or developmental delay.

These Playgroups are already wonderfully welcoming and inclusive, and there may be some small changes that can be made to be even more inclusive.

When we make small changes to help a particular child or adult with additional needs, it benefits all children, helping all children's development.

*Playgroup is flexible to the needs of it's families*

*Friendly and welcoming to everyone*

*The differences and strengths of all children and families are celebrated*

*Background noise and visual clutter is reduced if possible*

*There is a predictable routine*

*Recognises that there are all sorts of ways to play*

*The space is accessible for people with a physical disability*

*A quiet area for children to take a break is provided*

*Gestures, signs and pictures (as well as talking) are used to help all children develop their communication skills*

## **As carers, we can all help Playgroups be inclusive:**

- Be welcoming and friendly to everyone, especially to new families
- Encourage children to “say hello” to someone new, or someone with a disability or difference, rather than “don’t stare”
- Recognise that all children are learning skills at different times – including social and emotional skills.

\* Gregory, T., Sincovich, A., Harman-Smith, Y., & Brinkman, S. (2017). The reach of Playgroups across Australia and their benefits from children's development: A comparison of 2012 and 2015 AEDC data. Telethon Kids Institute, South Australia.

