

Start Strong Pathways

Supported Playgroups Early learning pathways



Playgroup NSW, a not-for-profit organisation, will celebrate 50 years this year since it began supporting families and communities learn and develop through play.

Playgroup NSW leads play-based programs and services for NSW families with children birth to school age, offering development, shared experiences, and family support that results in active citizens and inclusive communities. In the first 2,000 days of life, Playgroup NSW's vision is to positively impact every NSW child, their family, and community. Playgroup NSW currently engages with over 50,000 member families who reside in 90% of NSW postcodes.

One of Playgroup NSW's programs - Play Strong Playgroups provides early learning pathways for communities experiencing vulnerabilities and promotes the importance of early childhood education. These Playgroups promote the value of play-based learning that supports brain development and skills for babies and young children.

Many communities experiencing vulnerabilities are engaged with the program:

Children from low income families

Children from a culturally and linguistically diverse background

Socially isolated families

Children with disability

Aboriginal children

141

children are at risk of significant harm (from a child protection perspective)

children are from a socially isolated family

Participation snapshot from the 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 period

13,403

children have participated in total

7,104

children are from a low income family

89

children have a disability

1,309

children are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

787

children are Aboriginal

1,876

are children who enrolled in preschool during the reporting period, who were not previously enrolled



Increasing school readiness in pre-school children



Positive impact on health and wellbeing of both parent and child



Positive connection to culture



Connection to community and community services



PlayStrong Playgroups achieve the core objectives of the program, to support educational engagement of children too young to receive a preschool education; to support pathways to preschool; and to promote the importance of early childhood education to parents and communities.

50,000+

Playgroup NSW members and 24,847 Facebook followers gained access to information about the importance of early childhood education.

15

Play Van playgroup sessions each week occur in Parramatta, Blacktown and Campbelltown.



15,500

digital connections via group family and educator chats, emails and WhatsApp and Facebook messages.

88

Digital Playgroup - Play at Home sessions occurred.

PlayStrong Educators create a curriculum of learning experiences informed by the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) and PEEP Learning Together Program, an adult learning program that aims to support parents to develop sensitive and responsive relationships with their babies and young children and improve the home learning environment.

The impact of our work is evident through feedback from Play Strong Playgroup participant families:

- 85%** Feel their relationship with their child has improved
- 87%** have seen improvements in their child's social skills (listening, talking, sharing)
- 89%** have a better understanding of the importance of early childhood education
- 81%** have considered additional early learning engagement for their 0-3-year-old
- 89%** feel more confident in engaging and creating learning opportunities for their children in the home environment
- *Family Feedback Surveys 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021
- 85%** reported their child increased their physical health and wellbeing
- 97%** reported since attending playgroup, their child increased their social competence
- 91%** reported that their child increased their emotional security
- 95%** reported their child increased their language and cognitive skills
- 99%** reported their child increased their communication skills & general knowledge



*Family Evaluation Survey March 2021