



PLAY GROUPS

A play group is an inexpensive and simple early-childhood development project that can easily be implemented. A play group can start with an enthusiastic mom or a member of a congregation who loves small children.

In play groups a more formal approach is followed to develop children's self-image and confidence. The focus is on a happy atmosphere so that children can learn to be creative and to gain basic and social skills so that they can be ready for their school careers.

The typical identity of play groups is:

- A minimum of 2 days per week
- The hours at play groups should not exceed 5 hours per day
- If there are fewer than 6 children per group, the play group need not be registered
- The main function of the play group is to stimulate children and a full curriculum is not necessary
- Qualified educators are not necessary, only keen church members with a passion for small children
- If the play group exceeds 6 children, the play group should apply for registration.
- Registered play groups can qualify for subsidy from the Department of Social Development if the play group is functional for a minimum of 8 days per month.