



how to  
**promote  
play in  
the home**

webinar  
**one**

## Why do my children play differently at home than they do in childcare?

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**Your presenter** Jess Smith, is a busy mother of two, who found herself having to support her children's learning and development while working full time during the COVID-19 shut down. Jess is an Early Childhood professional with a passion for learning through play and her current role is a Service Leader at SDN.

## Highlights

### Key ideas

- ▶ you don't need to run a replica childcare centre at home to facilitate effective play with your child, children are wired to play
- ▶ because children are wired for play, they learn from boredom too. From boredom comes resilience, creative thinking and new ideas
- ▶ experience for a child at a centre and home is different for many reasons:
  - the children can socialise and learn from each other
  - educators have the time to professionally plan your child's learning and development, and they have a well trained eye to cater and support your child through play
  - educators have access to multiple resources, toys and educational tools. The spaces are specifically designed for children
- ▶ children are used to two different environments and sometimes more than two. Changes may cause new behaviours in your child
- ▶ if your child is exhibiting difficult behaviour, they may be seeking connection and comfort

- ▶ carve out specific uninterrupted playtime with your children. Be present, connecting yourself in your child's play but let your child take the lead. *Full attention part of the time, is better than part attention all of the time*
- ▶ the principal of serve and return can help you understand how children might be learning when you play with them.

### You should try

- ▶ unlike a centre, home has limited space and this is challenging. Designate a particular area for children to play in
- ▶ put out a few toys at a time. Don't offer everything at one time — too many things become too many choices without purpose. Old things become exciting again after some time
- ▶ prepare a routine that works for your child and yourself
- ▶ plan for something external each day, such as connecting children with their other relationships via Zoom
- ▶ set up toys in a new way to invite an idea to play
- ▶ allow for repetition, children need time to master. Judge their interest.

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### Websites to visit

- ▶ [www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/](http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/)
- ▶ [raisingchildren.net.au/](http://raisingchildren.net.au/)
- ▶ [www.ahaparenting.com/](http://www.ahaparenting.com/)
- ▶ [www.sdn.org.au/family-activity-hub/](http://www.sdn.org.au/family-activity-hub/)