

## SUPPORTED PLAYGROUP REFERRAL REQUIREMENTS

Supported Playgroup is a targeted service.

It is funded by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing to support families help improve the learning, development and wellbeing outcomes of children, from birth, until they start primary school.

There are referral requirements for Supported Playgroup.

To be eligible, at least one of the following needs to be met:

- A family member in the household holds a Health Care Card (or equivalent)
- A family member identifies as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- Families looking after children in kinship care arrangements (out-of-home care)
- Families referred from The Orange Door or Child Protection
- Families participating in Enhanced Maternal and Child Health or are referred from this service.

For further information contact the Supported Playgroup team on 03 5761 2264.

## IN-HOME SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS

While attending Supported Playgroup, families are able to access In-Home Coaching. In-Home Coaching offers five home visits during the school term, allowing parents more one-on-one time to cement learning initiatives from the Smalltalk program.

Families only need to meet one of the following criteria:

- One of the parents is aged 25 years or younger
- The mother has not completed Secondary School
- The family is a single parent household
- There are ten or less children's books in the home.

## CHILD SAFE STATEMENT

Council commits to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people.



BENALLA RURAL CITY COUNCIL

# Supported Playgroup



BENALLA  
RURAL CITY

## WHAT IS SUPPORTED PLAYGROUP?

Our Supported Playgroup is a relaxed environment for families with children aged between 0 - 5 (birth to school age).

The Playgroup is facilitated by a trained worker, specialising in families and children.

The aim of the Playgroup is to provide a safe and nurturing environment for children and parents to form new connections, gain confidence and improve existing parenting skills.

The Supported Playgroup works under the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF).

The Framework has five learning and development outcomes for children:

- A strong sense of identity
- Feeling connected and able to contribute to the community
- A strong sense of wellbeing
- Children who are confident and involved learners
- Children who are effective communicators.

Supported Playgroup strives to support parents and children with these outcomes through the Smalltalk program.

## WHAT IS SMALLTALK?

Smalltalk is an evidence-based playgroup program focused on improving the quality of everyday interactions between children and their parent or significant adult. This promotes learning and improves the quality of the early learning environment.

Smalltalk provides opportunities for parents to learn and experience:

- Quality everyday interactions with their child
- Parent self-care
- Raising your child in a stimulating environment
- Parenting confidence
- Community connectedness



## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

There are ten Playgroup sessions per school term. You don't need to bring anything - just yourself, your child and anything your child might need, such as nappies and bottles.

We provide a nutritious morning tea at every session. Please let us know about any food allergies or intolerances.

Some weeks there may be some messy play, but we will let you know in advance!

Playgroup is a free service for eligible families.

## REFERRAL PROCESS

If you would like to refer a family that meets the eligibility requirements, you will need the consent of the family. Once consent is gained, complete and return a referral form to [supported.playgroup@benalla.vic.gov.au](mailto:supported.playgroup@benalla.vic.gov.au)

If you wish to make a phone referral, please phone 03 5761 2264 to speak with your Supported Playgroup team.