

**During MDEIP Learn To Play  
Group families can:**

- Seek support and information, both from staff and from each other
- Explore activities and ideas that can be used at home
- Learn about other services that they could access



For Information and Referrals Please Contact:

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9.00 am—5.00 pm Monday—Friday

during School Terms



**MATER DEI**  
EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM



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**The Mater Dei  
Early Intervention  
Program  
Learn To  
Play Group**



## The Mater Dei Early Intervention Program (MDEIP) Learn To Play Groups

are informal gatherings where mums, dads, grandparents, caregivers, children and babies are all welcome to meet together in a relaxed environment.

Learn To Play Groups are run by the team members of Mater Dei Early Intervention Program and are there to answer any of your questions or concerns, provide pastoral support and provide education to parents and carers on the early stages of play, interaction and engagement.



## Why is Play so Important to our Little Ones?

While research on brain development is in its infancy, it is believed that play shapes the structural design of the brain. We know that secure attachments and stimulation are significant aspects of brain development; play provides active exploration that assists in building and strengthening brain pathways. Play creates a brain that has increased 'flexibility and improved potential for learning later in life' (Lester & Russell, 2008, p. 9).



**Come along and have  
some fun**

Young children's play allows them to explore, identify, negotiate, take risks and create meaning. The intellectual and cognitive benefits of play have been well documented. Children who engage in quality play experiences are more likely to have well-developed memory skills, language development, and are able to regulate their behavior, leading to enhanced school adjustment and academic learning (Bodrova & Leong, 2005)

