

Tips For Starting a Playgroup

- Location: Find somewhere that is free for use and easily available to the community (i.e. recreation/community centers, churches, libraries).
- Publicity: Advertise your group in places where children and their parents frequent: (i.e. bulletin boards, grocery stores, local bookstores, libraries, community centers and program listings. Also the playgroups could be publicized through web based parent groups, and most importantly to the families that enter the EI programs.
- More Publicity: Join local parenting list servs (i.e. yahoo groups. There are several parent list servs just in Alexandria in which parents share resources, ideas and ask each other questions.
- Communication: Once started, create an e-mail list to keep your parents and caregivers informed of the “goings on” in group, important announcements, cancellations, etc. I also use this list to send out reminders when more snacks are needed for the snack box and to let everyone know what to do in the event of “bad weather.”
- Volunteers: Find volunteers to lead your group. It doesn't have to be an EI staff (though it's nice to have a developmental specialist to consult for Child Find efforts occasionally or if there are questions). Talk to parents in the community who have children already in school, retired teachers or staff.