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Play School: Humpty and Dad

A special episode celebrating the great dads and father-figures of Australia!

Background

Play School has a significant legacy of joyful inclusions to reflect the lives and experiences of young children - evolving over many years to ensure families and communities of all shapes and sizes are represented on screen and celebrated through Play School's signature creativity and playfulness.

In this episode, Humpty and his dad have fun designing and building a dream cubby. We're joined by dad of two, media personality and 'Instafamous' home baker, Hamish Blake, as all the toys say a *Very Happy Father's Day* to the dads and father-figures of Australia. *'Through The Windows'*

we meet a multi-generational family as they spend time together over a meal and music. We invite you to snuggle up for songs, games, stories and fun with *Play School: Humpty and Dad*.

Play School: Humpty and Dad was developed in partnership with peak organisations in Australian family support and early childhood advocacy; [The Fathering Project](#), [Minderoo Foundation's Thrive By Five](#), [Raising Children Network](#), [Playgroup WA](#) & [Playgroup NSW](#).

In this episode, and via the associated resources and content from Play School's collaborators, we focus on promoting positive fathering behaviours through improved skills and engagement, so that all Australian children can thrive through their earliest years and beyond.



Reflecting positive fathering through play

We meet Humpty's Dad, Humphry Dumpty! Together with Andrew and Kaeng, the toys work together with Humpty and Dad to design and build Humpty's dream cubby. Through each toy play segment, Play School reflects active and involved parenting and the value of positive fathering engagement right from the start, such as enjoying imaginative shared play, open communication, problem solving together and the value of social connection with friends and the wider community.



Fatherhood in Australian pop-culture

Special guest [Hamish Blake](#) is a well-known Australian media personality, comedian, actor, author, and father of two. Hamish finds himself in the role of Play School's birthday cake baker! Hamish's appearance in the episode relates to his positive influence in the Australian fathering space through pop-culture; particularly via his podcast ['How Other Dads Dad'](#). Many of our adult co-viewers will be aware that Hamish became a social media sensation with his collection of marvellous DIY birthday cakes – often prepared for his kids haphazardly the night before!



Reflecting family diversity through storytelling

Andrew and Kaeng bring to life a small world diorama with puppets made from upcycled materials. They tell a story reflecting a neighbourhood with diverse households - Rosie has two dads and 'Lyra' lives with her Grandma and Grandpa in a multigenerational family. In a narrative speaking to the value of community connection and kindness, the neighbours come together to harvest tomatoes from the neighbourhood garden and make sauces to swap and share.

Andrew reads *My Dad* (2021) by Susan Quinn and Marina Ruiz, and sings a lullaby with Little Ted. There are hundreds of wonderful children's books to reflect fatherhood, parent/child relationships and family diversity.

To expand your library, visit [The Australian Childhood Foundation](#) and [The Sector](#) for storybook suggestions reflecting families of all shapes and sizes.



About our collaborators

The Fathering Project

The Fathering Project is an evidence-based organisation that aims to promote positive fathering behaviours and fathers' engagement with their infants, preschool, primary school, and adolescent-aged children. It is the first intervention program to be implemented in Australia which focuses on the fathers of all children. The Fathering Project educates, connects, and mobilises fathers and families to create brighter futures for children – through research-based prevention and early intervention programs and resources that engage, inform, inspire, equip and support fathers, families, schools, corporates and community-based organisations.



- [Go to The Fathering Project for information and resources.](#)
- [Learn about The Australian Fathering Awards.](#)

Minderoo Foundation's Thrive by Five

Minderoo Foundation incubates ideas, advocates for systems change and accelerates impact to fight and act for a fairer future for all. Through its Communities work, Minderoo's Thrive By Five campaign has convened more than 100 partners and over 100,000 individual supporters to champion reform in Australia's early childhood development system, aiming to make early childhood learning and care a national priority. It highlights the importance

of a child's first five years of life to help ensure every Australian child reaches their full potential. This includes a targeted effort with researchers, organisations and advocates for Australian dads to take an active, engaged and nurturing role in their children's lives.

- [Learn more about Minderoo Foundation's Thrive by Five](#)

Raising Children Network

Raising Children Network (RCN) provides free, reliable, up-to-date and independent information to help families grow and thrive together. RCN provides video, written and illustrated resources and information designed for busy families. The free materials are full of tips and tricks for carers to try which are easy to find and easy to digest. RCN offers answers to hundreds of parenting questions where and when parents need them. The advice covers

topics from pregnancy through the years 0-18, taking families and carers from nurturing a newborn to raising a confident, resilient teen – and helping adults look after themselves too.

- Learn more via raisingchildren.net.au and access RCN resources related to fathering [here](#).



Playgroup WA

Playgroup WA is the peak body for approximately 1000 community, parent-led playgroup sessions, as well as the growing, professional playgroup sector.

Their vision is for children and families to thrive within their local communities. Their playgroups are for children aged 0 to 5 years and their parents or caregivers, providing a place to regularly meet whilst forming supportive relationships and playing. They deliver a range of playgroup models throughout Western Australia, designed to enable playgroup participation for all families and work with other community agencies to develop their playgroup



- [Learn more about Playgroup WA](#)

Playgroup NSW

Playgroup NSW is a not-for-profit organisation that has been connecting and supporting families for over 50 years through a wide range of Playgroups and Parent Support Groups.

The peak body of Playgroups across NSW, the organisation is committed to inclusivity and community, and at the heart of Playgroups, lies the essence of connection. The informal gatherings serve as a space where children bond with their parents and carers, and families connect with other families, and communities come together to support one another. For parents experiencing the challenges and joys of parenthood, Playgroups offer a valuable

source of support and a platform to share experiences and build lasting friendships. Playgroups provide an enriching environment for children to socialise, learn through play, and prepare for their educational journey as well as a supportive place for parents to connect and build their village.

- For more information about Playgroup NSW [visit www.playgroupnsw.org.au](http://www.playgroupnsw.org.au)
- Learn more about other Playgroups operating around Australia via Playgroup Australia.

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