

## ■ *Tabatinga Playgroup*

# Fun and games for littlies

**C**OME into Tabatinga Entertainment Centre on any school day morning and you will see staff dressed in pirate outfits, children running around with rainbow face paint, lots of craft and play dough on the tables or children singing and dancing in a shower of bubbles.

The activities are part of the playgroups which are run each weekday morning during the school term, starting at 10.30am.

"At Tabatinga, we realise that we can have a role to play in not only providing energy-burning time, but in assisting the development of the child's mind, body and spirit," Tabatinga owner Cathy Parker said.

"So we introduced activities into our school-term playgroups and during the school holidays, we have activities such as face painting and 'bubbles of fun' dancing."

Cathy said the playgroups have been a big hit with not only children and also their parents because the activities aren't just about having fun – there are some important educational benefits as well.

"Monday's music and dance playgroup utilises a disco light and bubble machine which the kids love – and it's great for self expression and self esteem.

"Tuesday's arts and crafts session helps children develop co-ordination skills and learning, how to follow instructions and the children get to keep whatever they make during the session.

"Wednesday's 'glam 'n' glitz'

playgroup allows children to explore their imagination and the world of role playing.

"Friday is the Jungle Gym play session which is great because children's bodies and minds respond favourably to exercise – and they get a thrill from seeing staff crawling around the play structure and role playing with them.

"All sessions end with 'Tuity Fruity Time', where the children are treated to fresh fruit pieces and a cordial drink."

Parents also enjoy the playgroups because while their children are actively occupied, they can enjoy valuable 'grown up' time.

"We know that we need to cater to parents needs as well so we have recently added some comfy lounges and a magazine rack and we have just installed free Wi-Fi in the cafe area as well," Cathy said. "Of course some parents choose to join in and that's great, too."

The best part about all the playgroups and the extra school holiday activities is that they are all free with the children's normal entry price.

Tabatinga is located in the Bray Street Complex beside the cinema building and is open daily from 9.30am.

Phone 6658 0924 or visit [www.tabatinga.com.au](http://www.tabatinga.com.au) for more information.

**PLAYTIME:** Tabatinga playgroup – lots of fun during the week from 10.30am.

