



Ladybugs

PLAYGROUP SESSION PLANNER





Play Spaces

Theme: Ladybugs

Ladybugs are a type of Beetle. There are 5000 different species of Ladybugs in the world. They can have up to 20 spots each on their tiny bodies. They defend themselves from predators by playing dead.

Ladybugs will play dead to protect themselves.



Creative Space

Ladybug Circles

CHILDREN WILL NEED: Black and red card or paper, eye stickers, a hole punch, scissors and glue.

INSTRUCTIONS: Precut the black and red card/paper into circles and cut the red circles in half. Use the hole puncher to punch holes into the red card/paper mainly in the middle section. Glue the two red wings $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way down the black circle as shown in the picture, slightly apart and gently bend up. Add the eye stickers to your Ladybug.

EXTENSION IDEAS: Make some antennae and feet from black pipe cleaners and attach to your Ladybug.

A ladybug can live up to 1 year!



Play Spaces

Easy and fun outdoor activity!

Providing a diverse range of activities will support children's experience and whole developmental experience. Play spaces and activities can be set up as opportunities for free play.

Sensory Activity *Ladybug Sensory Bin*

You will need: Tray or tub, green rice or green shredded paper/tissue paper, plastic bugs, tweezers, magnifying glass if you have one at Playgroup.

Instructions: Place the rice or shredded paper into the tray, hide the bugs in there, place the tweezers and magnifying glass next to the tray and let the children try and find the bugs.



Outdoor Activity *Ladybug Hunt*



If you have an outdoor space, go on a Ladybug hunt. They like to eat aphids which eat our plants and pollen. If you have flowers or grass in or near your outdoor area you may just find a ladybug or two eating the aphids or nectar.



Play Spaces

How to set up your Play Space...

Baby Play



Setting up a Baby Play area can be very simple. A soft mat and some pillows are a great start. Items to include could be a mirror on the wall, treasure baskets, musical instruments, surprise box with different texture materials or scarves. Board books and some open space so that baby can explore and roll.



Quiet Corner



A sensory tent or area is valuable for children who are overstimulated and need some quiet time or space away from the group. You can include pillows, a blanket, sensory toys such as glitter wands, stress balls, bubble timers, poppits, wooden fidget toys, reversible sequins cushions, books and ear muffs.

Social Space



Social spaces include role play opportunities where children can play out scenarios such as kitchens, cafes, supermarkets, doctors, florists, bakeries, airports, work bench with tools and many others. You may provide dress ups, items for sale or production or service. This can also include playing families and home making.



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Builder's Corner



Ways to set up a builders corner include duplo, cars and train sets, loose parts play, box construction, wooden blocks, stacking and building games, cup stacking, building a fort with blankets, arranging materials on a lightbox, sand play and plasticine.

Group Time

Creative Play

Routines provide predictability for children

Activities to include in your Playgroup Routine

Welcome Song



Ninna Marni [Niina Marni]
Niina marni? Niina marni? >> Marni'ai.
Marni'ai
Wanti niina? Wanti niina? >> Wardli-ana,
Wardli-ana.
© Cherie Watkins

Song Time



Please see the last page for this session planner's song.
Join in with your group.



Shared Experience

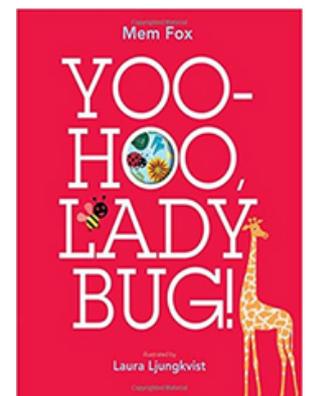
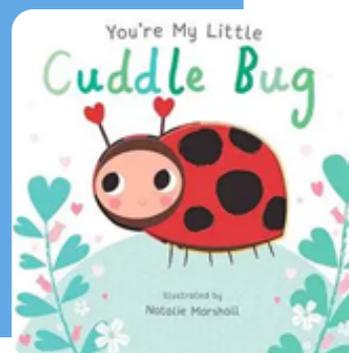


There are a lot of songs on Youtube about Ladybugs, some counting and rhyming ones. Below are two fun songs you can sing as a group. Talk about how many ladybugs you found when you explored outside.

Story Time



Have a look at the local library or bookstore for these books that will spark your imagination!
You're My Little Cuddle Bug by Natalie Marshall & Yoo-Hoo
Ladybug! By Mem Fox & Laura Ljungkvist.



Goodbye Song



Where are the children? Where are the children?
Here they are! Here they are!
We had fun at Playgroup! We had fun at Playgroup!
Bye for now, Bye for now!

Ladybug, Ladybug

Ladybug, ladybug,
Fly out of the farm,
And land right
On my little arm!



Ladybug, ladybug,
Fly out of the tree,
And land right
On my little knee!



Ladybug, ladybug,
Fly out of your bed,
And land right
On my little head!



Ladybug, ladybug,
Fly out of the rose,
And land right
On my little nose!



LADYBUG SONG

I'm a little ladybug, see my spots.
I crawl around your garden and in your flower pots.
I've got some wings that help me fly.
And catch those aphids buzzing by!

Framework



Playgroup SA's Playgroup Planning Framework has been designed to ensure that there is an evidence-informed approach to the planning of activities and experiences. There are five play types drawing on Mildred Partens work, the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) domains of development are covered, and the five outcomes in the Early Years Learning Framework. The Programming framework ensures that children attending Playgroup are engaged, are participating and have a diverse set of activities and experiences to support them to thrive. When programming we make sure there are opportunities for purposeful play, we think development and plan for outcomes.

Play Types

'Play' is synonymous with how children spend most of their time in the first few years of life. People of all ages benefit from play and play-based activities. Play is the central mechanism, providing a strong foundation for learning. When activities programmed at Playgroup align with each of the Play Types, children will enjoy a rich and diverse learning experience at Playgroup. When children interact and experiment in the Playgroup environment, they will better organise and make sense of the world around them as they play.



Functional Play



Construction Play



Role Play



Explorative Play



Creative Play

AEDC Domains

AEDC developmental domains help to provide a common language for families, and educators to understand and discuss outcomes through a developmental lens when children engage in different play-based activities. The AEDC domains can be particularly useful for reflecting on how individual children's development is progressing, and programming activities that work toward achieving optimal outcomes for each child. Understanding these domains of development can help families connect the activities and experiences that will support children to develop the skills in preparation for transitioning into the pre-school and school environments.



Physical health and wellbeing



Social competence



Emotional maturity



Language and cognitive skills



Communication skills and general knowledge

Early Years Learning Framework

The EYLF is used as the central framework in Early Childhood Education settings. The EYLF was designed to ensure that children in all early childhood education and care settings have access to meaningful activities and experiences that will support children's learning from birth through to five years. EYLF is Play-based and recognises families as children's first educators. A quality experience at Playgroup aligned with EYLF outcomes will ensure that children will have the best chance of positive experiences in the learning environment at school.



Outcome 1 Children have a strong sense of identity



Outcome 2 Children are connected with & contribute to their world



Outcome 3 Children have a strong sense of wellbeing



Outcome 4 Children are confident & involved learners



Outcome 5 Children are effective communicators