



# Rainforests

## PLAYGROUP SESSION PLANNER





# Play Spaces

## Theme: Rainforests

A Rainforest is a very thick forest, filled with plants and trees that grow well in very wet conditions. Rainforests have the largest variety of animals, plants and insects living in them. 6% of the Earth's land surface is covered by Rainforests. They are especially important to us as they help to make lots of oxygen that we need to breathe.

**FACT:**  
Of all the insects  
in the world,  
80% live in  
Rainforests.



## Creative Space

### Red Eye Tree Frog Faces

**CHILDREN WILL NEED:** Paper Plates, red & black paper, glue, bright green paint, dot markers, crayons or texta's.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

Cut paper plates in half. Paint or colour the plate green. While the paint dries, cut large eye shapes out of the coloured paper, and pupil shapes out of the black paper. Then cut a length of paper and roll it up for the frog's tongue.

**EXTENSION IDEAS:** Use sponges, dab in the paint and paint the frog's face for a different texture.

*Roll the strip of paper around a pencil to curl the tongue.*



# Play Spaces

Messy 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

### Rainforest Snake Slime

**You will need:** Snakes, a tray, and a batch of green slime.

**Instructions:** Make a batch of slime the day before Playgroup to allow for it to set overnight in the fridge (recipe below). Place the slime in the tray with the snakes, let the children feel the Rainforest Snake Slime, and see if the snakes slither their way through the slime.

#### Slime Recipe:

2 Cups of Lux Soap Flakes

2 Litres of Hot Water

Green Food Colouring.

Mix well in a container and let stand until cool enough to touch. The longer you leave it to stand, the thicker it becomes. Leave it in the fridge overnight to set. Take out a few hours before you use it.



Slime is so easy to make, and it's clean!



## Outdoor Activity

### Build a rainforest canopy



If you have a garden at Playgroup collect leaves, small branches, flowers, and sticks. If not, ask the families to collect some from their own gardens to bring into Playgroup. On a piece of paper or a table, using the items you have collected, build a Rainforest Canopy. Using taller branches or sticks and leaves build up the "canopy" - the top part of a Rainforest, and then below that have smaller plants and flowers.



# 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

## Rainforests

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.

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#### Shared Experience



Ask children to show and share their art and craft pictures. The coordinator can ask children – what do you like most about those things? How do you feel when you play with your favorite toy?

This is a great opportunity for children to build confidence in presenting to the group. Some children may be a bit shy and not want to, and that's perfectly fine too!

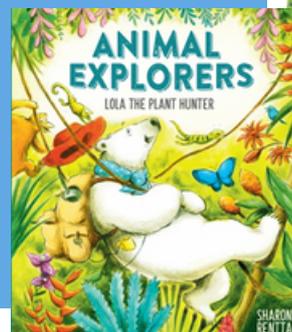
#### Story Time



Have a look at the local library or bookstore for:

Animal Explorers – Lola The Plant Hunter by Sharon Rentta

Remarkable Animal Stories by Emma Huia Lovegrove



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#### 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!



# Five Green and Speckled Frogs

Five little speckled frogs sat on a speckled log  
Eating some most delicious grubs (yum, yum!)  
One jumped into the pool, where it was nice and cool

Now there are four green speckled frogs  
Four little speckled frogs sat on a speckled log  
Eating some most delicious grubs (yum, yum!)  
One jumped into the pool, where it was nice and cool

Now there are three green speckled frogs  
Three little speckled frogs sat on a speckled log  
Eating some most delicious grubs (yum, yum!)  
One jumped into the pool, where it was nice and cool

Now there are two green speckled frogs  
Two little speckled frogs sat on a speckled log  
Eating some most delicious grubs (yum, yum!)  
One jumped into the pool, where it was nice and cool

Now there is one green speckled frog  
One little speckled frog sat on a speckled log  
Eating some most delicious grubs (yum, yum!)  
It jumped into the pool, where it was nice and cool

Now there are no green speckled frogs

# 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