



Christmas

PLAYGROUP SESSION PLANNER





Play Spaces

Theme: Christmas

Christmas is a time to celebrate with your family. You may have traditions such as sharing a meal with family and friends, going to church, sharing gifts and maybe a visit from Santa Claus!

FACT:

"Real" Christmas Trees can take up 15 years to grow. They are grown on sustainable farms, although many Australians have artificial trees.



Creative Space

Gnome tree ornaments

CHILDREN WILL NEED: Coloured paper/card, white paper, gluestick, ribbon, sticky tape, scissors.

INSTRUCTIONS: Cut a long triangle shape out of one colour card/paper, cut small strips of another colour and glue them onto the triangle leaving a gap between each strip. Cut a piece of white paper that fits the bottom of the gnome's hat, glue to the hat, make small thin cuts near the hat, and then use a pencil to curl the paper ends. Cut a small circle out of pink paper for the nose, and glue it on. Cut a length of ribbon and sticky tape it at the top of the hat and hang it on your Christmas Tree.

EXTENSION IDEAS: Cut pieces of foil and glue them onto the hat for stripes.

Use coloured foil patty pans for a different effect.



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 *Christmas Playdough*

You will need: 1 cup of plain flour, ½ cup of salt, 2 tbsls cream of tartar, 1 tbsls cooking oil approx. ½-1 tsp red and green food colouring, ginger, cinnamon, peppermint essence.

Instructions:

Mix all the dry ingredients together in a bowl, in a jug put all the wet ingredients together and add to flour mixture. Mix until a dough forms, then knead until smooth and stretchy. Make a red batch with the peppermint essence and add the ginger or cinnamon to the green batch. You can double the mixture to make larger batches of playdough.



Outdoor Activity *Rudolph Game*



You will need: Large brown piece of cardboard, markers, red paint/markers and a blindfold (a clean face mask makes a good blindfold!)

Draw on Rudolph's eyes, mouth and antlers, make several large round red noses with blue tack on the back, and Blindfolds. Hang up Rudolph outside, have the children line up, place blindfold over the child's eyes, give them a nose, turn them once and see who can get the closest to placing Rudolph's nose in the right spot.

Pin the nose on Rudolph!



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

Christmas

Routines provide predictability for children

Activities to include in your Playgroup Routine

Welcome Song



Niina 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 the children about what they love most about Summer. Do they like going to the beach? Having Picnics, playing and exploring outside? Talk about Summer as a season – what happens in nature, the plants that come out in Summer, the yummy summer fruits we get to eat.

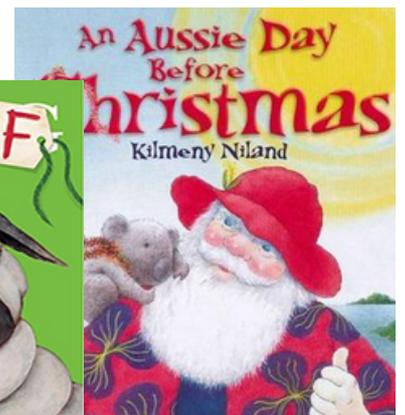
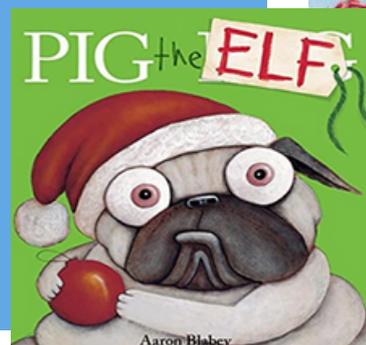
Story Time



Have a look at the local library or bookstore for:

PIG the Elf by Aaron Blabey

An Aussie Day Before Christmas by Kilmeny Niland.



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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!



Jingle Bells



Dashing through the snow
In a one-horse open sleigh
O'er the fields we go
Laughing all the way
Bells on bobtails ring
Making spirits bright
What fun it is to ride and sing
A sleighing song tonight, oh!

Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh, hey!
Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh

Now the ground is white
Go it while you're young
Take the girls tonight
Sing this sleighing song
Get a bobtailed bay
Two forty for his speed
And hitch him to an open sleigh
And you will take the lead

Oh, jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh, hey!
Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In one horse open sleigh!



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