



# Penguins

## PLAYGROUP SESSION PLANNER





# Play Spaces

## Theme: Grumpy Monkey Party Time

Penguins are seabirds, who use their wings to “fly” underwater when looking for food but cannot fly in the air. Penguins eat fish and other small seafood. They only live in the Southern Hemisphere – Antarctica, New Zealand, Southern Australia, South Africa and South America. Penguins lay two eggs per year, with the Emperor Penguins only laying one.

### FACT:

South Australia is lucky to have its very own Little Penguin population on Granite Island, Victor Harbour. Have you seen them?



## Creative Space

### Penguins

**CHILDREN WILL NEED:** Egg cartons, black and white paint, orange card or felt, sticker eyes, glue, sticky tape, and scissors.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Cut out the egg cups from the cartons. You can paint them black and white before Playgroup to cut down on time. Cut out feet shapes and beaks from the orange card/felt. Once the paint has dried, stick on the eye stickers, glue/stick on the beak and feet.

**EXTENSION IDEAS:** Instead of painting the penguin's white belly, use a cotton wool ball or some white felt and glue it on for texture.

*Cut an iceberg from some white card and glue your penguins on to it.*



# 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 *Penguin Sensory Tray*

**You will need:** Tray/tub/bowl, cotton wool balls, white pom poms, pinecones, small toy penguins or print-off and laminate pictures of penguins.

**Instructions:** Place the cotton wool and pom poms into the tray/tube/bowl. For an extra sensory touch, you could place the cotton wool balls and pom poms into the fridge or freezer for 30 mins before Playgroup to give them a cold-to-touch sensation. Place the pinecones, and penguins into the tray and let the children explore with their fingers all the different textures. Ask them what they can feel. Is it soft or hard? Cold or warm?



## Outdoor Activity *Winter Wonderland*



Tuff tray, water, ice cubes, animals such as penguins, polar bears, bears, seals, fish. Or just scoops and pourers to explore the water that Penguins and other winter animals live in. Could you live in water this cold? How does the water feel, cool or really cold?



# 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

## Penguins

Routines provide predictability for children

### Activities to include in your Playgroup Routine

#### Welcome Song

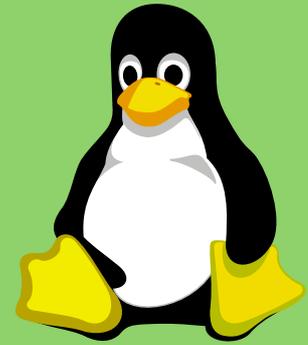


Niina Marni [Niina Marni]

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 what they enjoyed the most, the Penguin Sensory Tray or the Winter Wonderland Water Play? Did they like the different textures? Or did they prefer the cold icy water? Ask if they have visited the Penguins at Granite Island or seen some at the Zoo? Do they know what Penguins eat? What colours are a Penguins feathers?

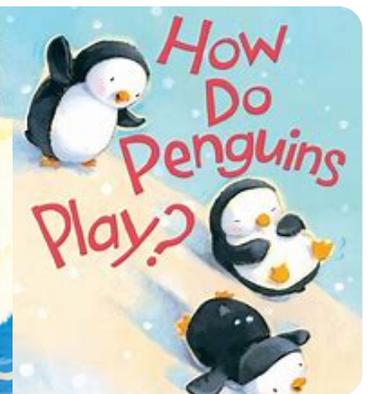
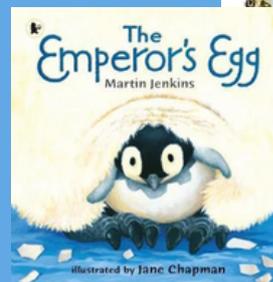
#### Story Time



Have a look at the local library or bookstore for:

How Do Penguins Play?

The Emperor's Egg by Martin Jenkins & Jane Chapman.



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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!

# 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