



Italian Culture

PLAYGROUP SESSION PLANNER





Play Spaces

Theme: Italian Culture

Family is very important to Italian people. Italians love their way of life. Even if they live overseas, they continue to honour family and Italian traditions. Italian food is a favourite all over the world – pizza, pasta, and tiramisu are just a few favourites. Italy celebrates the Battle of the Oranges every year in February, where Teams wearing Helmets throw oranges at each other over a three-day event, that dates back to medieval times.

FACT:
Italians are the
biggest
consumers of
Olive Oil in the
world.

Creative Space

Leaning Tower of Pisa



CHILDREN WILL NEED: Square pieces of corrugated cardboard, paper towel rolls cut in half, paint, black textas/pencils/crayons, scissors, sticky tape, glue sticks, green/white paint and paintbrushes.

INSTRUCTIONS: You can do some pre-prep work by painting the cardboard squares green and the paper towel rolls – cut in half and paint white & the cardboard squares green, before your Playgroup session.

EXTENSION IDEAS: Cut out of white paper a small rectangle/flag shape. Colour it in green and red, leaving a white section in the middle to make an Italian Flag. Glue or sticky tape onto a toothpick, and secure to the top of your Leaning Tower of Pisa.

If you have green paper, felt or textured green material, you can glue that onto the square instead, as the grass.



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 *Italian Rainbow Spaghetti*

You will need: A packet of Spaghetti, red and green food colouring, zip lock bags a tray, tongs, plastic scissors, bowls.

Instructions: Cook a packet of spaghetti (or more depending on the size of your group) as per the usual cooking instructions. Divide spaghetti into 3 equal amounts, place all 3 into individual zip lock bags. Add a few drops of green food colouring into one bag, zip lock and shake till all spaghetti is snow green. Repeat with the red food colouring and leave one bag as is. Place in the fridge until needed. Place spaghetti into a tray in the Italian Flag colours – green, plain, and red. Let the children explore with their hands, tongs and scissors.



Outdoor Activity *Football (Soccer)*



You will need: Soccer balls, round balls, cones.

Football (Soccer) is Italy's favourite sport. Set up some goals or cones where the children can learn some Football skills – kicking goals or kicking the balls around the cones and back. Italy won the European Cup Final in Football last year.



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.



www.playgroupsa.com.au

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

Italian Culture

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.

© Cherie Watkins



Shared Experience



If you are lucky enough to have an Italian Family attend Playgroup, ask if they would be interested in teaching the families a few words in Italian. Learn to count to 5 in Italian. Ask the children what their favourite Italian food is? Ask the Italian families what the Italian culture means to them, and what they love most about their Italian heritage.

Story Time



Have a look at the local library or bookstore for:

Olivia goes to Venice by Ian Falconer



www.playgroupsa.com.au

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