Zoo

PLAYGROUP SESSION PLANNER

PLAYGROUP SA
Playing, learning, supporting families

It's that time of year again when Playgroup SA's big event Playgroup at the Zoo is on. Everyone here at Playgroup SA loves this event as it gives us the opportunity to catch up with families, while having lots of fun in the beautiful grounds of Adelaide Zoo. Playgroup at the Zoo also celebrates the beginning of Children's Week which runs from the 21st – 31st of October. The theme for this year is "All Children have the right to a standard of living that supports their wellbeing and healthy development'.

FACT: There are over 3000 animals living at Adelaide Zoo, with over 250 different species.

Creative Space
Peacock

CHILDREN WILL NEED: Half a paper plate, oval and circle template (below), coloured card/paper, eye stickers, paint, paintbrushes, glitter, glue and scissors.

PREPERATION: Print off the oval and circle shapes onto the coloured card.

INSTRUCTIONS: Paint your paper plate in bright blues, greens, yellows, purple, pinks. While the paint is drying, cut out an oval and circle shape from your chosen coloured card. Cut a long triangle shape out of the coloured paper and fold in half for the beak. Once the paint has dried, glue the oval and circle pieces of card onto the paper plate. Glue on the beak and stick on the eye stickers (you can draw them on with a black texta if you don't have any eye stickers). If you have some glitter, put some blobs of glue on the paper plate and sprinkle on some glitter.

EXTENSION IDEAS: To make your Peacock stand out even more, add some bright coloured feathers for its wings. Male Peacocks are very bright and colourful so make them as colourful as you can.

Use coloured cellophane or crepe paper and layer them up to build up the feathers.

Play Spaces

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.

Outdoor Activity
Let's go on a safari

Sensory Activity
Zoo sensory tray

You will need: Tray, rice/legumes, zoo animal figurines, scoops, tongs, spoons.

Instructions: Place the rice or legumes into the tray, add the animals and the scoops/tongs etc. Let the children explore the tray and the animals. Ask them if they can name the animals, do they roar? What do they eat? Can you find them at Adelaide Zoo?

You will need: Lions, Tigers, Zebras, Hippo's, snakes, anything you may see on a Safari. If you have an outdoor space, hide the animals in the grass, pot plants, bushes. Give the children a pair of binoculars and see if they can spot the animals hiding while you are on Safari.

Play Spaces

Baby Play

EYLF 3

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

EYLF 3

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

EYLF 4

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.

Builder's Corner

EYLF 3

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.

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Group Time

Zoo

Activities to include in your Playgroup Routine

Welcome Song

EYLF 1

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

Shared Experience

EYLF 5

Ask the children to talk about their experiences visiting a Zoo. Have the visited Adelaide or Manarto Zoo? Or have they been lucky enough to visit another Zoo like Sydney's Taronga Zoo? Are you all coming to Playgroup at the Zoo? If so, what are you looking forward to seeing the most? The Lions? The Tigers? The Meerkats?
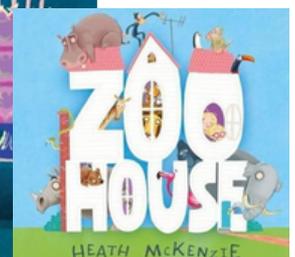
Story Time

EYLF 3

Have a look at the local library or bookstore for:
    Lion Guards the Cake by Ruth Paul
    Zoo House by Heath McKenzie

Goodbye Song

EYLF 1

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!

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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.

EYLF 1 EYLF 2 EYLF 3 EYLF 4 EYLF 5

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