



THE AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK PLAYGROUP SESSION PLANNER





Play Spaces

Theme: The Ocean

The Australian Outback covers nearly 70% of central Australia. It is often described as dry land but does receive between 200-250mm of rain each year. Only 10% of the Australian population lives in the Outback. Aboriginal people feel a deep and strong spiritual connection to the outback. There are many sacred Aboriginal sites within the outback, Uluru being one that is recognised all over the world.

FACT:

The largest ocean on earth is the Pacific Ocean, which covers 30% of the earth's surface.

Creative Space

Create an Emu



CHILDREN WILL NEED: Paper plate, black paper, brown crepe paper, eye stickers, glue stick, scissors and sticky tape.

INSTRUCTIONS: Cut the bottom off the paper plate, making some waves along the bottom. Cut up strips of brown crepe paper, glue them on to the plate like feathers. From the left-over plate cut a circle for the Emu's head. Cover this in crepe paper and stick on an eye sticker. Cut three strips of black paper for the legs and neck. Using sticky tape, stick on the legs at the bottom of the body and then the neck and head.

EXTENSION IDEAS: Instead of using crepe paper you could use feathers, material or wool to give your emu some texture.

Use a glue stick not school glue as it will make the crepe paper too wet to work with.



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 *Outback Sensory Tray*

You will need: A large tray or space in your outdoor area if you have one, red legumes or similar to represent the red earth of the Outback, Australian animals, rocks, and scoops. A bowl with water for a watering hole.

Instructions:

Let the children play and explore the outback with the animals.



Outdoor Activity DIY

Sensory Walk



You will need: You can use trays big enough for children's feet or a large tarp that you can place on the ground and put different ground textures such as dirt, sand, leaves, twigs, water in piles. Surfaces they would come across in the outback. Let the children take off their shoes and feel the different textures on their feet. Ask the children to describe what they are feeling.



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

The Australian Outback

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



Read one of the wonderful book suggestions about the Outback. Ask the children if they have visited the Outback. Have they seen Uluru? Have they visited the Flinders Rangers here in South Australia? What is their favourite animal that lives in the outback? If you have been to the outback, talk about your experience. What you liked and disliked, was it hot or cold? What did you like the most about the outback?

Story Time



Have a look at the local library or bookstore for:
Outback Lullaby by Sally Odgers and Lisa Stewart & Marcello Pennacchio and Danny Snell.



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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