



Gardening

PLAYGROUP SESSION PLANNER





Play Spaces

Theme: Gardening

Gardening is a great outdoor activity, where we can help nurture plants and vegetables to grow. Gardening involves weeding, watering, and fertilising plants and vegetables; plants need three things to grow – sunlight, soil and water. You may be lucky to have a garden in your backyard, or you may live in an apartment where you have flowers and vegetables growing in pots on a windowsill or balcony. You can start big or small, chat to your family about working in your garden and watch how the plants grow. Gardening is a fun way to spend time with your family.

FACT:
Studies have shown that talking or playing music to your plants does help them to grow.

Creative Space Flower Garden



CHILDREN WILL NEED:

Different colour paint, cardboard rolls, patterned paper, glue scissors, paint brushes. A4 or 5 white paper. Green texas.

INSTRUCTIONS: Cut slits into the bottom end of the cardboard roll, part way up and bend back. Paint each petal of cardboard a different colour, press down and print the paint onto the white paper. Print as many flowers as you would like onto the white paper. While the paint is drying, cut circles out of the patterned paper. When the paint is dry, glue the circles into the middle of each flower. Draw stems and leaves for your flowers.

EXTENSION IDEAS: Tear strips of different green card or paper, and glue onto the bottom as grass for texture and depth.

Instead of using the coloured paper, glue sunflower seeds into the middle of your flowers.



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

Nature Table

You will need: Baskets, leaves, flowers, feathers, small tongs, magnifying glasses.

Instructions:

Set up a nature table, filling the baskets with things from the garden. Let the children pick them up, look at them under the magnifying glass. How do they feel? What can you see?



Outdoor Activity

Build your own mini-garden!



You will need: A plant pot or tub, even an egg carton or bottom of a 2L soft drink bottle with a few holes in the bottom for drainage, some soil, seeds (small flowers, strawberry seeds), watering can, little spades or even spoons if using egg cartons. Place some soil in the pots, cartons etc. Push a finger into the soil, drop some seeds into the hole, cover with soil, water, and watch each week as the seeds grow, keep watering, take the children out each week and talk about what is happening. It can be a weekly playgroup activity showing children what it takes to look after a garden, to watch things grow. Or take home and nurture your seeds.



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



If the playgroup is close to a park or garden you could have an excursion to go and look at them or have a walk around the neighbourhood to see all the different gardens in the street. Point out the different colours, plants, and trees. Ask the children if they have visited the Botanical Gardens in Adelaide or the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens in Pt Augusta?



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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

Gardening

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 to talk about what they love most about their Mums, Grandmothers & special people. Talk about some of the ways they can show how much they love them. What are they doing to celebrate Mother's Day this year?

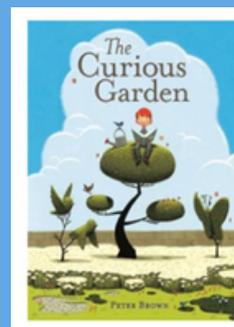
Story Time



Have a look at the local library or bookstore for:

The Curious Garden by Peter Brown and

Planting a Rainbow by Lois Ehlert



Planting a Rainbow by Lois Ehlert



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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