

All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them.
Walt Disney

**JUNGLE
GEMS**

CLICK ME FOR THIS MONTH'S CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 Sustainable Living Festival 1-29th
2 World Wildlife Day Heart Kids National Awareness Month	3 Ball Skills with Mr Peter (Little Cubs/Meerkats)	4	5 Ready Steady Go Kids (Giraffe) Monthly Staff Meeting	6	7	8
9	10 Ball Skills with Mr Peter (Little Cubs/Meerkats)	11 Safer Internet Day How to be safe online	12 Ready Steady Go Kids (Shouties)	13 National Apology Anniversary	14 Valentine's Day	15
16	17 Ball Skills with Mr Peter (Little Cubs/Meerkats)	18	19 Ready Steady Go Kids (Shouties)	20	21 Water Play Day Bring your sweaters and sun shirt ready for some water play fun!	22
23	24 Ball Skills with Mr Peter (Little Cubs/Meerkats)	25	26 Ready Steady Go Kids (Shouties) First Parents Conference Meeting for 2026	27	28 School Clean Up Day Teaching children about the impact of rubbish on their environment	29

Policy of the Month

<https://junglegems.com.au/whats-on/>



ON *this*
MONTH

Events at Jungle Gems

Floral Fridays -----	Every Friday
World Breastfeeding Week -----	1-7 th
Dental Health Week -----	3-9 th
National Aboriginal & Torres Islander Children's Day -----	4 th
Int'l Day of the World's Indigenous People -----	9 th
Jeans for Genes Day -----	6 th
Crazy Sock Day -----	7 th
Indigenous People -----	9 th
National Science Week -----	15 th -23 rd
Nerang Funaza -----	9 th
World Elephant Day -----	12 th
Mr Kale's Jarjums Session -----	18 th
Children's Book Week -----	22-28 th
Red Nose Day -----	27 th

Extra-curricular Activities at Jungle Gems (school term only)

Ready Steady Go Kids (Giraffe's only) -- Tue
Ball Skills with Mr Kale (Little Cubs/Meerkats) - Wed
Little Groovers Dance (Giraffe and Meerkats) -- Fri

Public Holidays:

Gold Coast Show Day (Jungle Gems Closed) ----- 28th

August Newsletter

Welcome to all our new families who have joined us at Jungle Gems. We are excited to have you join the family.

Mid-Year Summaries

On the 31ST July, your child's Lead Educator, sent you your child's Mid-Year Summative Assessments (on Storypark). If you haven't already, please take the time to read through these as it gives you important milestones information specific to your child. We encourage you to please give your feedback on the summaries. Please feel free to send in new goals or interests your child currently has. If you would like to meet with your child's educator to discuss the mid-year summary further, please make an appointment through the front desk.

Incursion- Bug Kidz

This month, Jungle Gems had a special visitor- Miss Lee from Bug Kidz. The children had the opportunity to see lots of amazing creatures, including stick insects, stink beetles, grasshoppers and snails. Everyone had the chance to carefully hold at least one of the creatures, which was a wonderful hands-on learning experience.

Miss Lee also taught the children songs and dances, with the clear favourite being the one all about dung beetles and poo! The children across all four rooms had a wonderful experience and we look forward to welcoming Miss Lee back to our centre in the future.

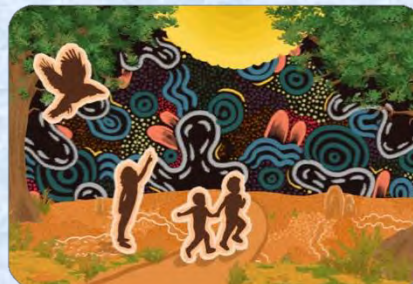


WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK – AUGUST 1 – 7th

World Breastfeeding Week is a time to recognise the importance of breastfeeding and the support families need along the way. The 2026 theme, “Breastfeeding for a Sustainable Start in Life: Strengthen What Works,” highlights the value of building on the care, knowledge and support systems that help mothers and babies thrive.

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN'S DAY - AUGUST 4

Children's Day is a special time to celebrate the strengths, culture, identity and future of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. It is a day for families, communities and early learning services to come together and honour the important role that culture, connection to Country, family and community play in each child's life. Families are encouraged to talk at home about respect, culture, belonging and the importance of listening to and valuing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices.



This artwork is called **Learning from Country** by Tovani Cox. Tovani Cox is a proud Bunuba, Gija, Karajarri, Yawuru and Miriwoong women from the Kimberley region of Western Australia.

“This artwork celebrates the strength, curiosity and voice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. It reflects the idea that every child has the right to be heard and to lead their own journey through life...”

Learn more and join in this national celebration led by SNAICC – National Voice for our Children. **Find out more here**

BEST BLOGS

SAFE ON SOCIAL | safeonsocial.com/blog

The **Safe on Social** blog provides practical, up-to-date guidance to help families understand the online world children are growing up in. Covering topics such as social media safety, privacy, AI, deepfakes and emerging digital risks, the blog supports parents and carers to have informed conversations at home and make safer choices online.

Families are encouraged to explore the blog for helpful advice on supporting children's wellbeing, safety and confidence in digital spaces.

This is important for families with younger children who may not be using the internet or social media themselves yet. Many children already have a digital footprint because photos, videos and personal moments are shared online by adults. Resources like Safe on Social help parents think carefully about privacy, consent, image sharing and how to protect children's identity and wellbeing before they are old enough to make those choices for themselves.

ONE BOWL CORN AND ZUCCHINI FRITTERS

TOTAL TIME 30 min | MAKES 25 fritters

INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/2 cups (180 grams) spelt flour (or plain wholemeal flour)
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon bicarb soda
- pinch of salt and pepper
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup (250 ml) milk
- 1/2 cup (60 grams) tasty cheese, grated
- 1/2 cup (75 grams) parmesan cheese, grated
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh herbs (we used dill, mint and basil)
- 3 cups (375 grams) corn kernels
- 1 cup (150 grams) grated zucchini (approx. 2 zucchinis)

METHOD:

Place the flour, baking powder, bicarb soda, salt and pepper into a large bowl and whisk to combine creating a well in the centre. Add the eggs and milk and whisk to create a smooth batter. Add the tasty cheese, parmesan, herbs, corn and zucchini and whisk to combine.

Heat a large fry pan over low-medium heat and add a drizzle of olive oil to grease. Ladle 1/4 cup measurements of the batter onto the fry pan.



Cook for 2-3 minutes or until bubbles begin to appear on the surface of the fritter and the edges begin to set. Carefully flip the fritters and cook for another 2-3 minutes. Or until the fritters are golden and bounce back to touch.

Place the cooked fritters onto a plate lined with kitchen paper and continue frying until no batter remains. Serve the fritters warm or cold. Freezer friendly.

Enjoy x

Recipe and image from mylovelylittlelunchbox.com.

Focus Article: Why Wonder Matters

If you have a preschooler, you have probably heard a lot of questions. Why is the sky blue? Where does the rain go? Why do ants walk in a line? Why do I have to sleep? Why can't I wear gumboots in the bath?

Sometimes these questions are funny. Sometimes they are exhausting. Sometimes they come at the exact moment you are trying to cook dinner, answer an email or get everyone out the door. But behind every "why?" is something important: your child is trying to make sense of the world.

Young children are natural researchers. They notice things adults often walk past. They test ideas, make predictions and look for patterns. When a child drops a spoon from the highchair again and again, they are not simply making a mess. They are learning about cause and effect. When they mix mud and water, they are exploring texture, change and measurement. When they ask why the moon follows the car, they are trying to understand space, movement and perspective.

Curiosity is one of the foundations of learning. Before children can read textbooks, solve equations or write reports, they need to wonder. They need to ask questions, experiment, make mistakes and try again. These early habits help build problem-solving skills, confidence and flexible thinking.

As adults, it can be tempting to answer every question quickly. Sometimes we know the answer. Sometimes we do not. But children do not always need an instant explanation. In fact, some of the best learning happens when we wonder with them.

Instead of giving a quick answer, you might say:

"I wonder what you think?"

"How could we find out?"

"What do you notice?"

"What do you think might happen next?"

"Should we test it?"

These simple responses show children that their ideas matter. They also help children slow down, think carefully and see themselves as capable learners.

Of course, there will still be times when a simple answer is enough. Children also need adults to share knowledge and language with them. But curiosity grows when children are given space to explore, not just receive information.



Families can support curiosity in everyday moments. A walk around the block can become a chance to notice shadows, leaves, birds, clouds or sounds. Bath time can become an experiment with floating, sinking, pouring and bubbles. Cooking together can introduce counting, measuring, mixing and observing change. Gardening can help children learn about seeds, soil, insects, water and time.

You do not need special equipment to encourage curiosity. Often, the best learning comes from ordinary things: cardboard boxes, sticks, stones, water, leaves, cups, spoons, magnets, fabric, torches, mirrors or recycled containers. Open-ended materials allow children to explore in their own way and use their imagination.

It is also helpful to let children see that adults are still learners too. Saying "I'm not sure, let's find out together" teaches children that not knowing is not a failure. It is the beginning of discovery. This helps children feel safe to ask questions, make guesses and change their thinking when they learn something new.

Curiosity also supports language development. When children ask questions and explain their ideas, they practise using words to describe, compare, predict and reason. Conversations about everyday discoveries help build vocabulary and confidence. Most importantly, curiosity helps children stay connected to the joy of learning. When children feel that their questions are welcomed, they are more likely to keep asking, exploring and trying.

So the next time your child asks "why?" for the tenth time in a row, take a breath. You do not need to have all the answers. Sometimes the most powerful response is simply to pause and wonder together.

Because every big idea starts somewhere — often with a small child, a simple question and an adult who was willing to listen.



For more information on managing disappointment follow the QR code.

See link via QR code
Retrieved from raisingchildren.net.au

RHYME TIME BASKET

Collect a few familiar household items or toys and place them in a basket, such as a sock, cup, car, spoon or bear. Choose one item at a time and help your child think of words that sound the same or similar. For example, "sock" might rhyme with "rock," "block" or "clock." The words can be real or silly — the goal is to help children listen to sounds in words and have fun with language. Rhyming helps children develop early phonological awareness, which is an important skill for learning to read.



Jungle Gems Latest Room Updates

Jingeri families and friends...

Giraffes Update

Can you believe it is already August? And what a busy July we had! Much of our learning centred around NAIDOC Week and discovering more about the customs and traditions of the Kombumerri people. We learned about Elders, storytelling and the importance of yarning circles. We explored different ways of creating artwork, including using charcoal and mud, and had the opportunity to practise our weaving skills. We also talked about the Sea of Fish and how it symbolises the way we all swim together as one. We have been very in tune with nature this month, spending lots of time caring for our garden. Our hard work was rewarded when we were able to harvest and enjoy our very own lettuce! One of our big interests this year has been bugs and insects, so the visit from BugKidz was a massive hit! We sang, we danced and learned even more fascinating facts about the tiny creatures who share our world and help look after our garden. This week, we also got cosy in our pyjamas! We made and enjoyed hot chocolate, listened to stories and worked together to build some fabulous pillow forts. Over the coming month, we will continue to strengthen our mathematical skills, exploring **shape, pattern and symmetry**. We will also begin learning some new songs in preparation for our graduation. This will give the children plenty of opportunities to become familiar with the songs, build their confidence and feel prepared for their big day. We also have **Book Week and Science Week** on the horizon, and we would love for some of you to join us for some of our special activities. If you can spare an hour or two, please come and speak to one of the Giraffes educators. We would love to have you join us!

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Marie and the Giraffes Team

Meerkats Update

July has been a big and exciting month for the Meerkats! We have been learning more about the Kombumerri people through our NAIDOC Week celebrations and the meaningful experiences that have continued throughout the month. Over the past few weeks, the children have been exploring the wedge-tailed eagle (Mibunn), which is the totem of the Kombumerri people. The children enjoyed taking part in the Dance of the Wedge-tailed Eagle, using movement and music to express their understanding and appreciation of this important cultural symbol. We also worked together on a large group art project where the children used their fine-motor skills to carefully cut and stick paper pieces onto a collaborative Mibunn artwork. It was wonderful to see the children showing persistence, teamwork, and pride in contributing to a shared creation. As we continue through the term, we will keep exploring the Kombumerri people and deepen our understanding of how we can build respectful connections to Country and its First Nations peoples. Looking ahead, August will be another busy month as we prepare for Dental Health Week, Book Week, and Science Week. We are excited to engage the children in a range of

hands-on learning experiences that encourage curiosity, creativity, and discovery.

Miss Jade and the Meerkats Team

Little Cubs Update

This month we celebrated NAIDOC Week by reading Dreamtime stories, creating Aboriginal-inspired artwork, exploring Australian animals, participating in yarning circles and learning about Indigenous symbols and their meanings. These experiences helped children build an appreciation for Australia's rich Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. Our little explorers also loved spending time outdoors searching for bugs and insects, bird watching with binoculars and listening to the sounds of nature. These experiences encouraged curiosity, observation, and a love of the environment. Sensory and creative play remained favourites, with children enjoying playdough, slime, painting, building with blocks and imaginative play. We also welcomed BugKidz, an incursion where children learnt about sustainability and the important role insects play in our gardens. We celebrated World Snake Day through engaging sensory experiences and discussions. It has been wonderful to watch the children's confidence, creativity and friendships continue to grow throughout the month. Thank you to our families for your ongoing support and we look forward to another exciting month of learning together!

Miss Alana and the Little Cubs team

Bush Babies Update

We have had another wonderful and busy month in the Bush Babies room!

This month, the children thoroughly enjoyed our Bug Show, where they watched an engaging puppet performance all about bugs. Their faces were filled with wonder as they learnt about different insects and watched the show unfold. We also celebrated Pyjama Day by wearing our favourite PJ's not once but twice this month- it was so lovely seeing everyone dressed in their cosy pyjamas while enjoying a relaxed and comfortable day together. During NAIDOC Week, the children participated in a range of meaningful experiences, including an Indigenous flag rice sensory tray, an Australian animal tray with coloured sand, a Torres Strait Islander-inspired sensory tray with coloured pasta and sea animals, and dot painting on eucalyptus leaves. These activities encouraged sensory exploration while introducing children to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. Throughout this month, we have seen the children's unique personalities shine, while their communication skills continue to grow through interactions with both educators and their peers. A shared interest this month has been exploring the bush tucker garden and mud kitchen, where the children have loved discovering the natural environment and engaging in imaginative outdoor play. Next month, we are excited to celebrate National Science Week with a variety of hands-on science experiences, as well as Book Week. We can't wait to see all the creative and exciting costumes the children will wear!

Miss Keira and the Bush Babies



SEED COLLAGE

Create a textured artwork using seeds, grains and dried pantry items. This simple craft combines creativity, fine motor skills and early science learning, while encouraging children to notice different shapes, sizes and patterns.

Start by collecting a small selection of seeds or dried foods, such as sunflower seeds, pumpkin seeds, lentils, rice, oats, dried beans or split peas. Place them in small bowls so children can look closely, sort them and talk about what they notice. Are they smooth or bumpy? Big or small? Round or long?

Next, draw a simple outline on paper or cardboard, such as a flower, leaf, tree, butterfly, rainbow or sun. Older children may like to draw their own picture, while younger children can fill in a shape drawn for them.

Invite children to glue the seeds onto the outline or inside the shape to create a collage. They might make patterns, create lines, fill different sections with different seeds, or mix them together. Encourage children to take their time and carefully pick up and place each seed.

As children create, talk about where seeds come from and what they need to grow. You might ask, "What do you think would happen if we planted this seed?" or "What do plants need to stay healthy?"

Leave the collage flat to dry, then display the finished artwork or use it as inspiration to plant real seeds at home.

For younger children, use larger seeds and supervise closely, as small seeds and dried foods can be a choking risk.

Fee Increase Update

At Jungle Gems, we have always been committed to keeping our fees as affordable as possible while providing the highest standard of care and education for every child.

Over the years, we have done our best to absorb increasing costs without compromising the experiences and opportunities we offer. Your child's daily fee continues to include nutritious meals, regular incursions and excursions, our Christmas Concert, Kindergarten Graduation, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Grandparents Day and many other celebrations that create lasting memories throughout the year.

We are also proud to invest in our educators. We believe that experienced, passionate educators are the heart of our service, which is why we continue to pay above Award wages to attract and retain a high-quality team.

To ensure we can continue providing the standard of care and experiences that our families value, our daily fees will increase from **Monday, 10 August 2026**.

Room	New Daily Fee
Bush Babies	\$155.50
Little Cubs	\$155.50
Meerkats	\$153.00
Giraffes	\$147.00

We feel incredibly privileged to be part of your child's early learning journey and look forward to supporting their continued growth and development in the months ahead.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to speak with a member of our management team.

Nic, Sam, Gail, Pete and Kale

Policy of the Month:

QA2: Health and Safety

Water Safety Policy

Animal Moves



Get moving by pretending to be different animals! Spend 30 seconds on each animal movement: hop like a kangaroo, crawl like a bear, flap like a bird, stomp like an elephant, waddle like a penguin and stretch tall like a giraffe.

This quick activity helps children build strength, balance and coordination while using their imagination. Families can take turns calling out animals and making up their own moves.

Feedback
is always welcome



Jungle Gems
Early Learning Centre
5578 4209
info@junglegems.com.au