

"Life is beautiful. It's about giving. It's about family."
Walt Disney

**JUNGLE
GEMS**



**ON *this*
MONTH**

Events at Jungle Gems

Floral Fridays	-----	<i>Every Friday</i>
First Day of Spring	-----	1 st
Melody Park Retirement Village Visit (Giraffes)	-----	1 st
Save the Koala Month	-----	1 st - 30 th
Early Childhood Educators' Day	-----	2 nd
Indigenous Literacy Day	-----	2 nd
Father's Day Afternoon Tea	-----	3 rd
Crazy Sock Day	-----	4 th
Father's Day Afternoon Tea	-----	4 th
Father's Day	-----	6 th
National Child Protection Week	-----	6 th - 12 th
Optical Visit	-----	9 th
R U OK? Day	-----	10 th
Kindy Photo's	-----	15 th & 16 th
Talk Like a Pirate Day	-----	21 st
Save the Koala Day	-----	25 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:

No Public Holidays

September Newsletter



A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL STAFF AT JUNGLE GEMS!

Celebrating Early Childhood Educators' Day

Early Childhood Educators' Day recognises & celebrates the work of Australia's educators in early learning services for their wonderful contribution to the wellbeing and healthy development of the children in their care.

At Jungle Gems, our team has always been more than just staff — they are an extension of our family and a reflection of our values. This year has been a steady year with our fantastic staff and we feel grateful for our incredible team. Each educator brings something truly special to our centre — whether it's their passion, energy, warmth, or the deep, trusting relationships they build with the children in their care.

On **Wednesday, 2nd September**, we'll be sharing a special Storypark post with all our families, highlighting one thing we love and appreciate about each of our amazing team members. We'd also love to invite you — our Jungle Gems families — to join us in showing appreciation. If you'd like to share a kind word or something you admire about your child's educator, please feel free to add a comment to the post. We'll be sharing all your messages with the team to remind them just how valued they are. Thank you in advance for helping us celebrate the heart of Jungle Gems- our wonderful staff.

Nic, Sam, Gail, Pete and Kale

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

Please keep an eye out for our monthly newsletter to receive updates on the latest news happening at Jungle Gems as well as monthly room updates from your child's educator.



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS' DAY – SEP 2

Early Childhood Educators' Day recognises and celebrates the important work of Australia's early childhood educators and the vital role they play in supporting children's wellbeing, learning and development during the early years.

The theme for this year is 'The future starts with us'. It is a special opportunity for children, families and service providers to show their appreciation and say thank you to the dedicated educators who make a meaningful difference in children's lives every day.

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK – SEP 6-12

National Child Protection Week raises awareness of child abuse and neglect and encourages everyone to help create safe, supportive environments where children can grow, learn and thrive. The 2026 theme, "Every Conversation Matters: Shifting Conversation to Action," reminds us that conversations can raise awareness and challenge harmful attitudes, but meaningful change happens when we turn our words into action. Together, we can help create communities in which every child is heard, valued and safe.

NO-BAKE BROWNIES

TOTAL TIME: 1hr 15 min | SERVES 16



NO BAKE BROWNIES

1 cup **rolled traditional oats**
1 cup desiccated **coconut**
1 cup **pecans***
1 cup cacao powder
pinch of **sea salt**
10 **medjool dates**, pit removed
1/4 cup **pure maple syrup**
1 teaspoon **vanilla bean paste** (or extract)

FROSTING

100 g **dark chocolate**
1/4 cup **milk**
1 tbs **coconut oil**
1 tsp **vanilla bean paste** (or extract)
pinch of **sea salt**
to decorate: dried rose petals (optional)

METHOD: Line a 20cm x 20cm square tray with baking paper. **Place** the oats, coconut, pecans, cacao powder and sea salt into the large bowl of a food processor. **Blitz** for 2-3 minutes or until very finely chopped. **Add** the dates, maple syrup and vanilla and blitz again for 2-3 minutes, or until lusciously combined and smooth. **Place** mixture into prepared tray and spread evenly. **Pop** in the fridge for an hour or to 'set'.

TO MAKE THE FROSTING: **Place** the dark chocolate, milk, coconut oil, vanilla and salt into a small saucepan and place over low heat, whisking continuously until melted. **Pour** the mixture into a bowl and pop into the fridge. Every 5 minutes or so remove the bowl from the fridge and give it a good whisk (this whisking creates a gloriously smooth and luscious frosting). Once **cool**, spread the frosting over the brownies. **Cut** into 12 or 16 bars and serve.

*For a **NUT FREE VERSION:** replace pecans with an extra 1/2 cup oats and 1/2 cup coconut). **Enjoy x**

Find this recipe and more at *My Lovely Lunch Box*

Podcast Reviews

Parenting is tricky, these listens may just help you along the way!



Emerging Minds Families | Emerging Minds

Each fortnight, Emerging Minds chat with parents, family members and practitioners from all over Australia. They generously share with us their experiences and the knowledge, strength and the skills they've developed while navigating the ups and downs of parenting, raising a family and the tricky things that life can sometimes throw at us. We discuss a range of topics close to families hearts and always with a mind to supporting children's mental health and wellbeing.



Beyond the Bump | Sophie Pearce and Jayde Couldwell

This is a place for real conversations and honest questions, no matter how hard, about the parts of motherhood that often go unspoken. The mental load that changes shape rather than easing. The identity shifts. The stage where life doesn't suddenly feel simpler. Wherever you are in it, the aim is the same: to leave you feeling lighter, more understood and a little less alone after every listen.



Words Grow Minds | Amelia Mulcahy and Kate Ellis

Connection, connection, connection. If there's one thing that parent educator Genevieve Muir wants us to take from her, it's that it all comes back to connecting with our child. With her trademark good humour and keeping it real, Gen talks to Kate and Amelia about surviving and thriving in today's parenting world of information overload. Gen shares practical tips for cutting through the noise, the advice you can ignore, setting loving boundaries... and why watching more cat videos might just help!

Jungle Gems Latest Room Updates

Jingeri families and friends...

This month has been a spectacular and busy month for the Giraffes! We have been learning, exploring and creating together, with lots of exciting experiences throughout the room.

We kicked off the month with Dentist Week, learning about the importance of looking after our teeth and maintaining good hygiene. The children explored healthy habits and why caring for our teeth is important.

We then had lots of fun during Science Week, exploring potions and experiments. The children made predictions, tested their ideas and excitedly shared their discoveries with their friends. We have also loved celebrating Book Week! We have enjoyed exploring rhyming words, sequencing stories, building our vocabulary and using our imaginations. Oi Frog has been a favourite, and the children have created their own artworks, proudly displayed in the foyer. Through these experiences, the children have also been developing their literacy skills, recognising letters, practising mark-making and building confidence in drawing and writing. We have also started learning how to become Sustainability Heroes by reducing waste, reusing materials and caring for our environment. The children have started to develop an understanding of how small changes can make a big difference.

Looking ahead, we are excited to prepare our Father's Day gifts and cards, visit Melody Park and begin our Lunch Box Days! Thank you for another wonderful month of learning, laughter and adventures. We can't wait to see what next month brings!

Miss Bronte and the Giraffes Team

Meerkats Update

August has been a month full of hands-on learning and exciting discoveries for our Meerkats! We have been learning about Dental Health Week, exploring how germs and bacteria can build up on our teeth and discussing how healthy food choices can help keep our teeth strong and healthy.

We also had so much fun during Science Week! The children experimented with the force of wind and explored a range of sensory experiences using colourful ice, Oobleck, frozen peas and shaving cream. These experiences encouraged the children to practise their science and early mathematics skills as they experimented, observed changes, made predictions and explored cause and effect.

Turn-taking, practising our personal space bubbles and developing self-help skills continue to be important areas of learning for our Meerkats. It has been wonderful to see the children showing increased cooperation, patience and focus as they participate in group experiences and play alongside their friends.

We also celebrated Book Week and are having lots of fun sharing our favourite stories and exploring the wonderful world of books. The children have loved showing their individuality through their choice of costumes and sharing in the excitement of dressing up and celebrating stories together.

Miss Jade and the Meerkats Team

Little Cubs Update

We've had a wonderful and busy month in Little Cubs! This month we explored Dentist Week through having group conversations on good foods and bad foods for our body using the felt board for visual learning and practicing brushing our teeth through many sensory experiences. We also explored "Keeping Australia Beautiful" Week through venturing out into the garden where the children practiced mindfulness and observation as they involved themselves in nature and even collected natural materials to use for a nature collage. We celebrated other events such as World Lion Day, World Elephant Day, World Lizard Day and World Honeybee Day where the children extended on their interest in animals through sensory experience. These included animal craft- the children made our very own beehive out of recycled materials and colour matching sensory bee activity where the children built on their fine motor skills, creative expression and own imaginative skills. We finished up our exploration with some animal themed yoga, where the children can practice their sense of mindfulness of the world around them through various poses. As we head into spring, please remember to pack appropriate spare clothes and spare underwear, clearly labelled. Thank you.

Miss Alana and the Little Cubs team

Bush Babies Update

What a wonderful month we have had in the Bush Babies room, filled with exciting learning experiences, creativity and lots of fun! During Science Week, the children participated in a range of hands-on science experiments. The clear favourite was our exploding volcano! The children were fascinated by the eruption and kept asking to do it again and again. They also loved exploring our lava lamps, watching the colourful bubbles move around the bottles and chatting about what they could see. We also celebrated Book Week, and the children looked adorable in their amazing costumes throughout the week. We enjoyed some fun book-inspired experiences, including creating Rainbow Fish paper plates and exploring a Gruffalo hunt sensory tray. The children's language and communication skills have flourished this month. Many of our little ones are now happily chatting with each other and becoming more confident in communicating their needs and wants with educators. The children have also been loving time in the big yard, where they are extending their growing gross motor skills. They have enjoyed riding bikes, explored the cubby house, and climbing and sliding from the fort. Next month, we will celebrate our wonderful fathers with our Father's Day Afternoon Tea. We can't wait for you to see what the Bush Babies have been creating especially for their special presents!

Miss Keira and the Bush Babies



FOCUS ARTICLE: Why Children Need Family Rituals



Family rituals may seem like small parts of everyday life, but they can play an important role in children's emotional and social development.

A family ritual is something that happens regularly and carries meaning for the people involved. It might be a bedtime story, Sunday pancakes, a special goodbye before childcare, Friday movie night, a song you always sing in the car or simply talking about the best part of the day over dinner.

For young children, these repeated experiences help make life feel more predictable. Children are still learning how the world works, and routines and rituals give them clues about what to expect. This sense of predictability can support feelings of safety and help children manage transitions, particularly when other parts of life feel unfamiliar or changeable.

Rituals can also strengthen children's sense of belonging and identity. When children participate in repeated family traditions, they begin to develop an understanding of what makes their family unique. They learn, *this is something we do together*. Over time, these shared experiences can become part of the stories children tell about their family and themselves.

There is also an important relationship component. Many family rituals create regular opportunities for connection. A bedtime routine may provide a quiet moment for a child to talk about their day. A weekly walk may create uninterrupted time together. Even very short rituals, such as a particular hug or phrase at drop-off, can reinforce a child's sense that their relationship with a parent or caregiver is dependable.

This can be particularly valuable during periods of change. Starting childcare or school, moving house, family separation, welcoming a new sibling or experiencing changes in everyday routines can all create uncertainty. Maintaining familiar rituals can provide continuity and give children something reassuring to hold onto while they adjust.

Importantly, family rituals don't need to be expensive, elaborate or perfectly maintained. Their value comes from **consistency, connection and meaning**, rather than how impressive the activity is.

Rituals can also change as children grow. Inviting children to help create new family traditions gives them a sense of participation and ownership while creating opportunities for connection.

In a busy world, these small, repeated moments can have a powerful message for children: **you belong, our relationship is important, and there are things in your world you can rely on.**



Find more information on this article via the QR code.

Source: Family traditions and rituals: why they're important (2025). Retrieved from raisingchildren.net.au



A Greener Spring Clean

Spring is the perfect time to open the windows, clear out the cupboards and give your home a fresh start. But before filling the bin with unwanted items or stocking up on new cleaning products, there are plenty of simple ways to make your spring clean a little more sustainable.

- Start by using what you already have. Old towels and worn-out clothes can become cleaning cloths, while containers and baskets you already own can be reused for storage and organisation.
- When decluttering, think twice before throwing things away. Clothes, toys, books and household items that are still in good condition could be donated, sold, swapped with another family or passed on to someone who can use them.
- You can also reduce waste by choosing reusable cleaning cloths, washable mop pads and refillable products instead of disposable alternatives. Before buying a different cleaning product for every surface, check whether one multipurpose product can do several jobs.
- Get children involved too! They can sort toys they've outgrown, sort items for recycling or help wiping down surfaces.
- A sustainable spring clean isn't about doing everything perfectly. It's about pausing before we throw something away, using what we have and making small choices that create less waste.



Big Art, No Rules

Sometimes the best art experiences are the simplest. Instead of reaching for a small sheet of paper, flatten out a large cardboard box and turn it into a giant canvas.

Add some paint, brushes, rollers, sponges or even use hands and fingers, then let children explore. There is no picture to copy, no "right" way to paint and no finished product they need to create.

A large painting space gives preschoolers the freedom to use their whole bodies as they create. They can stretch, reach, move around the cardboard, make long sweeping lines, giant circles, tiny marks and experiment with mixing colours. This kind of large-scale painting can support creativity, coordination, spatial awareness and confidence.

It also encourages children to make their own decisions. Which colour will they use next? What happens when two colours mix? How can they fill a large empty space?

For an extra challenge, try painting with unusual tools such as toy cars, leaves, sticks, kitchen sponges or cardboard tubes.

Place the cardboard outside or on an easy-to-clean surface, add a few materials and step back to let the artwork unfold.

The goal isn't to create something perfect. It's to experiment, move, explore and enjoy the process of creating something completely their own.

Days for 2027

Believe it or not, 2027 is fast approaching. Many new families have enquired about care for next year and we now have a waitlist for each of our rooms. As per every year, we send out a survey to our existing families over Storypark- please click on the link to fill out your required days for next year. Please consider your days carefully before confirming because after the deadline, we will open the days we have left to new families. We always prioritise existing families and would hate for any of our current children to miss out. Once we have received all requests, we will let families know if your extra days or new days have been confirmed. Please note, if you do not intend to change your days, please fill out the survey anyway so we can confirm that you will still be here in 2027. Giraffe families will be sent out a separate survey asking each family to notify us of your last day of care. Please note, if you intend to take your child out before our final day of care on **Friday, 15th January 2027**, 2 weeks' notice still needs to be given. Thank you.

Kindy Photo Dates

Please note that we have our annual kindy photos for all children coming up in September. These photo's will be held over two days. If your child does not attend these days, please feel free to bring them in to get their photo taken on either of the below dates. More details have been sent out on Storypark.

Date

Tuesday 15th September
Wednesday 16th September

Policy of the Month:

QA2: Health and Safety

Unexpected Death of a Child or Staff Member at the Service Policy



Floor is Lava

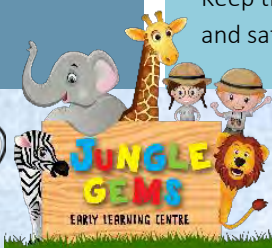
Short simple activities to get some active minutes in the day.

Place cushions, towels or pieces of cardboard on the floor to create stepping stones. The challenge is to move across the room without touching the floor!

Try jumping, balancing, taking giant steps or moving backwards. It's a fun way to build balance, coordination and problem-solving while getting everyone moving.

Keep the course low and make sure the area is clear and safe.

Feedback
is always welcome



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