

April 2025

Kindy News



Kindy Photo Days



Individual and Class photos will be taken in Term 2 —

Group A on Tuesday, 3rd June

Group B on Friday, 6th June

We are excited to have a new photographer coming to the kindy this year —

NorthPoint Photos

Order forms have been placed in your parent pocket. Please return completed form prior to photo day and hand to Suzan in the office.



Save the Date! (Term 2)

**Public Holiday—
No Kindy**

Monday, 5th May

**Mother's Day
Event**

Group A - 6th May
Group B - 8th May

**Committee
Meeting**

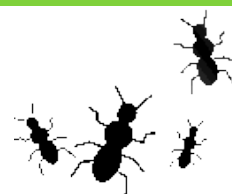
Monday, 12th May
5pm

**Reconciliation Week
Family Morning**

Group A - 27th May
Group B - 30th May

Kindy Photos

Group A - 3rd June
Group B - 6th June



Mother's Day Event

**Group A - Tuesday, 6th May
8am - 9am**



**Group B - Thursday, 8th May
8am - 9am**

We invite our beautiful Mums (or special person if Mum is not available) to come to this morning event for some pampering to show our appreciation and to make them feel special. Please note that this is a time for Mums and their kindy child only, where possible. Dads will have their turn later in the year. Of course babies are welcome but toddlers may not let you get the pampering we have in mind so talk with staff if you are unsure.

An RSVP sheet is located on the sign-in table. Please BYO hairbrush.



Button Batteries are prohibited at kindy

Button batteries are used in many products including electronic toys, children's watches, shoes with flashing lights, bags, or books. Items that contain button batteries are strictly prohibited at kindy.

In Australia, approximately 20 children per week present to hospital after a button battery exposure, with approximately one child every 3 weeks sustaining a severe injury.

Be Button Battery Aware!!

Office Artist

The children have started displaying their artwork in Suzan's office. Please watch the Office Artist notice on Suzan's door to see if your child's work is displayed.



Reconciliation Week Event Family Morning

Group A - Tuesday, 27th May
8am - 9am

Group B - Friday, 30th May
8am - 9am



To celebrate Reconciliation Week we would like to host an activity morning for our kindy kids and their families.

We will set up a series of play activities for the children to rotate through with their family during the morning (siblings and extended family and friends are also welcome).

Families need to indicate how many are attending on the notice on the sign-in table (out shortly).

Our planned schedule for the morning will be:

Arrive 8am - parent/adult rotates through activities with their own child and siblings.

Depart 9am - gather to sing goodbye to families.

Usual kindy pick up time of 3.45pm.

If you are unable to attend, your child will be partnered with another family or staff member.



Roof Upgrade scheduled for June/July Holidays!!

In 2024 we were successful with three grants to go towards replacing the original 47-year-old kindy building roof. This also encompasses the need to increase the height of our roller shutters along the verandah by raising the roof height in this area to prevent head knocks:

Gambling Community Benefit Fund Grant - \$35,000

C&K Capital Works Funding Program - \$63,314.32

Go Clubs Grant (Cairns Regional Council) for the replacement shutters - \$17,024. This will be completed later in the year.

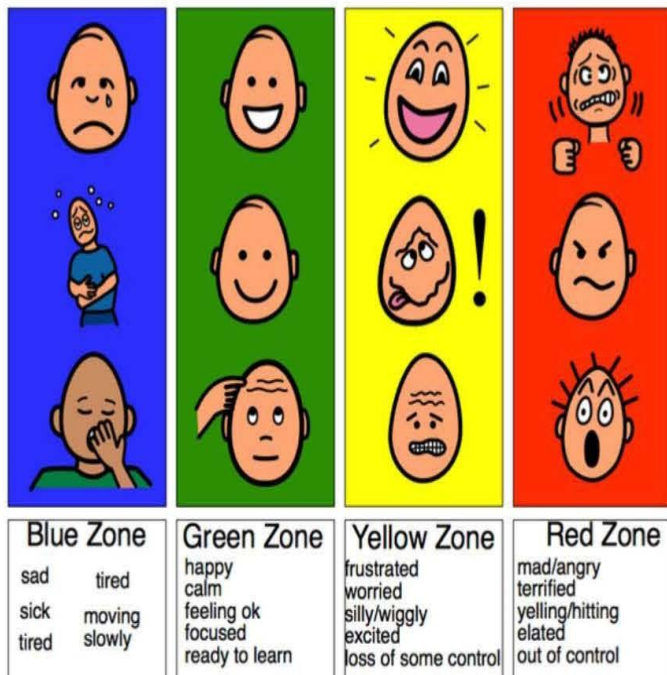
This comprehensive project involves installing a new roof, eaves, fascia, gutters, downpipes, insulation, raising the roof level on the verandah and new roller shutters.

Our aim is to complete these essential upgrades during the June/July holidays, ensuring a safer and more comfortable environment for our kindy community.



Welcome to Term 2, 2025 We have been busy making changes to our learning environment to support planned intentional teaching and to follow up child interest areas observed last term.

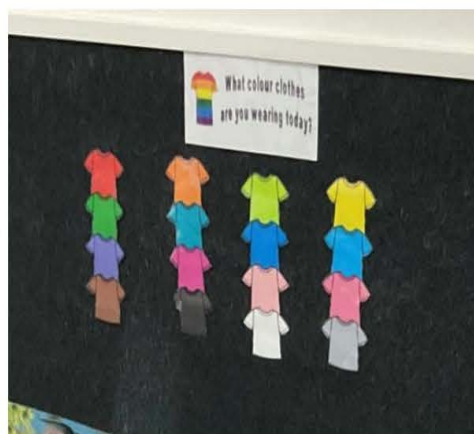
The Zones of Regulation



Our “Zones of Regulation” attendance chart, where children place their photo next to how they are feeling upon arrival at kindy, is planned. We will continue discussing feelings, identifying emotions, singing and reading about emotions this term.



To start the term our photo attendance chart will ask children to decide what colour they are wearing. Please help your child complete this routine each morning.



The ELLA Japanese language program will commence this term. We have a “hands on” learning centre to compliment the iPad app-based programs. Our first 2 apps will focus on greetings and colour names in Japanese.

Games and puzzles have been selected to increase challenge and develop skills about number, spatial awareness and about attributes like shape, size and colour. We also have arranging boards nearby to develop these skills and fine motor planning through construction.

Our dramatic play space has been extended with props for a hospital after observing an interest in medical play in both groups last term. Language and numeracy learning is promoted as children phone for an appointment or talk with the doctor about their symptoms and write appointment times.



There are also travel agency office props to follow up play observed last term. The props, like brochures, maps, tickets, bag tags and money, all promote literacy and numeracy within the play.



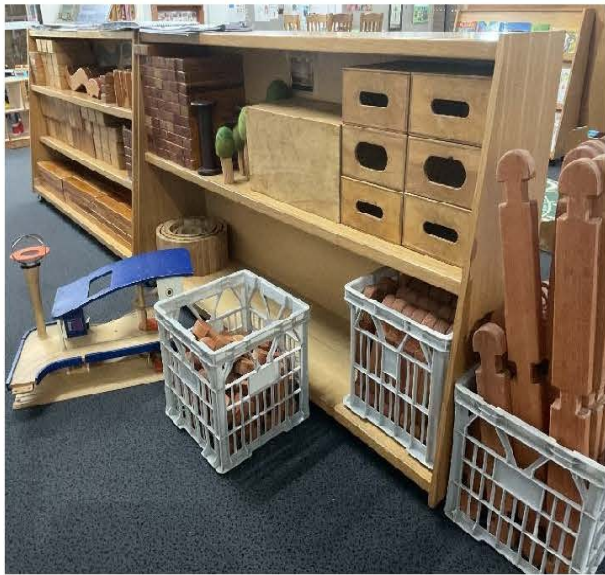
Dramatic play also promotes social and emotional skills as children negotiate, solve problems and assign roles.



The plasticine has been combined with beads and wire pipe cleaners to mold, thread and promote strong finger muscles.



Our indoor art studio has a range of medium to promote fine motor strength and creativity. Our framed self-portraits are now on permanent display here to promote each child's feelings of belonging. The new water colour palettes promote exploration of colour mixing.



Construction in the block area has new materials and props, including an airport and planes after an interest in this play last term. There are also new large wooden connector blocks to build problem solving, planning and engineering skills.



Mobilo construction and planning cards are available to build design skills and imagination.



We will be displaying the family photos on our family tree above the bathroom window. A way to build a sense of belonging.

Term 2 Events:

6th May Group A Mother's Day Event 8.00 am – 9.00 am

8th May Group B Mother's Day Event 8.00 am – 9.00 am

27th May Group A Reconciliation Week Event 8.00 a.m. – 9 a.m.

30th May Group B Reconciliation Week Event 8.00 a.m. – 9 a.m.

3rd and 6th June Kindy Class Photo Days

Music Therapist, Jaye Odgers visiting fortnightly (Tue & Thurs).

More details will be in the newsletter and on Storypark but please "save the date" for these events.



The puppet theatre promotes oral language and storytelling with one of our favourite story props (Goldilocks and the Three Bears) nearby.



We are exploring the alphabet through this hands-on matching crocodile game.



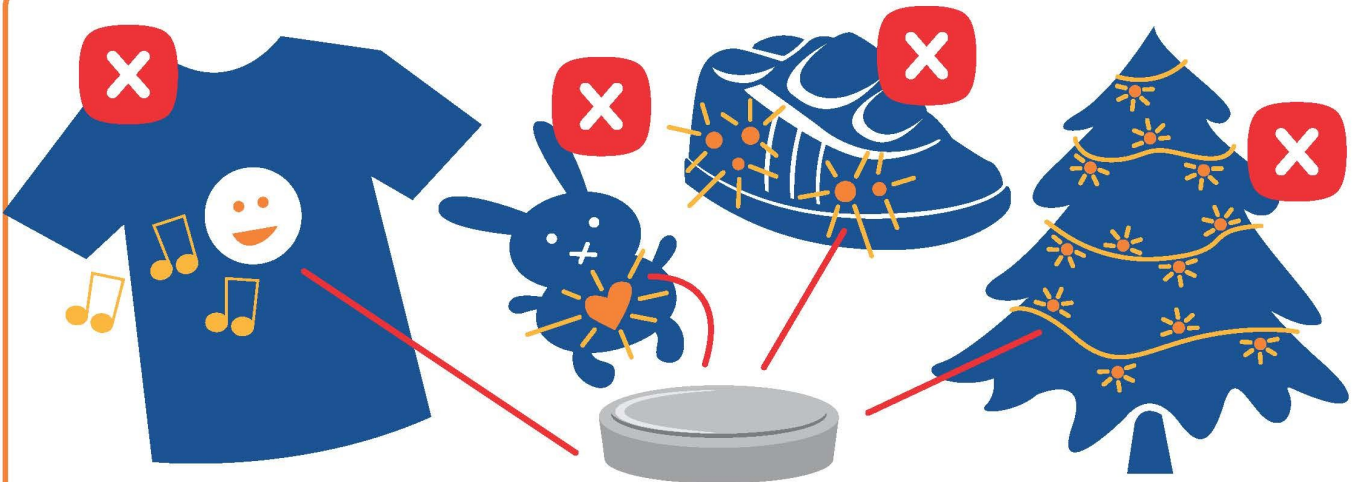
Be Button Battery Aware



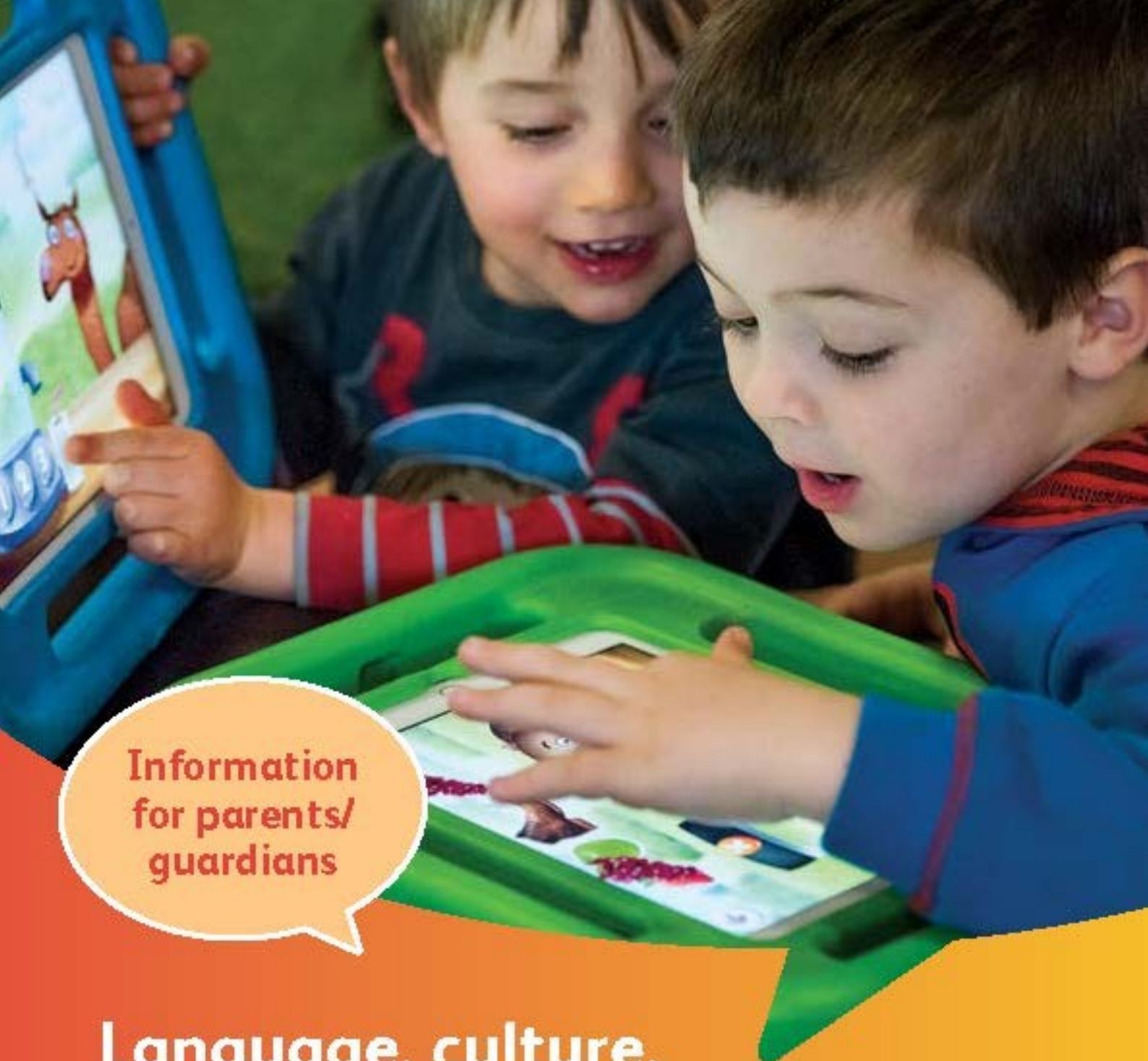
In Australia, approximately 20 children per week present to hospital after a button battery exposure, with approximately one child every 3 weeks sustaining a severe injury.



Button Batteries are extremely dangerous
and life threatening to children!



Items including clothing, shoes, bags, books, toys, craft materials, and Christmas decorations (e.g. fairy/Christmas lights) that contain button batteries are **strictly not permitted** at C&K.



Information
for parents/
guardians

**Language, culture,
understanding.**
It all starts
in preschool.

**Early Learning Languages
Australia (ELLA) program**

ELLA is an Australian Government initiative.

www.ella.edu.au





Unlock their world through language.

What is ELLA?

'It has been one of the best learning experiences of my 25-year teaching career. I am in awe daily of how quickly the children learn and have loved this learning.'

– Educator at preschool using ELLA

ELLA is a fun and easy digital language program for preschool children. The program is an Australian Government initiative aimed at encouraging more students to study language.

The program has been successfully integrated into thousands of preschools across Australia. It has had overwhelmingly positive feedback from families and educators.

ELLA aligns with the Australian Government's screen time recommendations for young children, with a maximum of 40 minutes per week across multiple small sessions. For more information, please visit the website here:

health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-pubhlth-strateg-phys-act-guidelines#npa05.

Your child's preschool is set to offer ELLA as part of its preschool or kindergarten program. There is no cost to you.

How does ELLA work?

ELLA introduces children to learning a new language via interactive tablet apps, which have been developed in consultation with experts in languages, early childhood and technology. The Polyglots are a cast of characters who – through play-based learning – introduce the children to words, sentences and songs in another language. The apps draw on the interests and activities of young children, such as celebrations, cooking experiences, art activities, building and role-play.

Your child's preschool has selected one of the following languages: Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), French, German, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Modern Greek, Spanish, Turkish or Vietnamese. ELLA will create opportunities to enrich the language and culture in the apps through other activities such as cooking, stories or music, or inviting family and community members to share their cultures at the preschool.

All ELLA apps are aligned to the learning outcomes in the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF), a key component of the Australian Government's National Quality Framework for early childhood education and care.



What are the benefits of ELLA?

'My child counts to 10 in Indonesian and so does his younger sister, and she doesn't even attend preschool.'

– Family of child using ELLA

Using ELLA has shown multiple benefits for children.

Children will expand their knowledge of how language works and apply these skills to other literacy tasks, such as listening carefully to sounds in words. These skills will be used when the children learn to read and write. ELLA will help develop foundation skills, such as learning colours, counting and greetings.

Research has shown that exposing children to language learning at an early age encourages them to continue language studies during secondary school.

'[My child] comes home keen to apply new words that he has learnt at school in the home context. He is even teaching his two-year-old sister to count in French. He often describes things in French.'

– Family of child using ELLA

Playing with the ELLA apps helps children develop and use cognitive and social skills. They will share the tablets and their knowledge, interact with and help each other. Language learning improves memory, concentration and critical-thinking skills. Using the ELLA apps increases children's digital skills, too.

ELLA also creates opportunities to celebrate culture and diversity, to share home languages, and to strengthen links between families and preschool services.

'I took him to a Lebanese restaurant, and he ordered his drink in Arabic (like the character does in the app, I think), and he used "Thank you" and "Bye". And the waiter said his pronunciation was very good. Amazing.'

– Family of child using ELLA

Your child's participation in ELLA

ELLA is being implemented at your preschool as part of the preschool/kindergarten program. However, it is your choice as parent/guardian whether your child participates in ELLA.

If your child participates in ELLA, you can expect the following things:

- Your child will have the opportunity to use the apps on a tablet device as part of program activities at your preschool.
- Their first name and photo may be added to the tablet devices as their personal login/avatar. ELLA strongly recommends using images of objects the children will recognise rather than children's faces to ensure privacy. This information will only be accessed by your preschool and ESA, and will be deleted from the tablet devices at the end of the year.
- Usage data will be collected on the tablet devices during your child's sessions and will be sent electronically to ESA periodically, where it will be stored securely. The data relating to your child will be de-identified; that is, particular data will not be linked to your child.
- Aggregate data, analytics and results from the ELLA program (none of which identify your child) may be included in ESA and Australian Government reports. This de-identified data may be made publicly available and could be used to inform future government policy on early learning of languages in Australia.

Regarding online safety, the ELLA apps work within a closed system in your preschool – the apps are not available to the public and are not able to be used to communicate with anyone outside the preschool.

You are encouraged to discuss any concerns about the ELLA program with your child's preschool in the first instance. **If you do not want your child to participate in the ELLA program, you should inform your preschool in writing.**





Privacy notice

ESA and the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment respect the privacy of individuals, protect personal information and comply with relevant Australian privacy laws. In summary, we only collect personal information where it is reasonably necessary for, or directly related to, administering the ELLA program. We will only use personal information for the purposes for which we collected it or as otherwise allowed or required under law, and disclose personal information where we are allowed or required to do so under law. We protect the privacy of your child and the security of their personal information, and when personal information is no longer required we destroy or delete it in a secure manner.

The ELLA privacy policy is available at www.ella.edu.au/privacy-policy. The complete privacy policies of ESA (www.esa.edu.au/contact-us/privacy) and the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment (education.gov.au/privacy-policy) provide more detail on the collection, storage, use and disclosure of the personal information that we may hold about your child and how you can access or seek to amend that information.

If you have any queries about privacy, contact ESA at privacy@esa.edu.au; PO Box 177, Carlton South, Victoria, Australia 3053; or 03 9207 9600.

Further information about ELLA

Talk to your child's educator, visit the ELLA website www.ella.edu.au, or email the ELLA helpdesk at ella@esa.edu.au.



Education
Services
Australia



Australian Government
Department of Education,
Skills and Employment

49 Things to do before you're 5



- 1 Run around in the rain
- 2 Play hide-and-seek in a garden
- 3 Lie on your back and watch the clouds
- 4 Pick fruit from a tree and eat it
- 5 Go for a hike in the bush or a local reserve
- 6 Jump in a pile of leaves
- 7 Build a sandcastle with a moat
- 8 Hang from a low branch, then drop
- 9 Make a collection of leaves and feathers
- 10 Climb a steep slope on your hands and knees
- 11 Watch a sunrise or sunset
- 12 Play with mud
- 13 Explore your garden with a magnifying glass
- 14 Float a leaf in a pond or stream
- 15 Listen to a storm and watch for lightning
- 16 Chase your shadow
- 17 Search for tadpoles in a creek
- 18 Make a cubby under a tree or in some bushes
- 19 Draw with a stick in the dirt
- 20 Grow some herbs and veggies in a patch or pot
- 21 Visit a farm, or a petting zoo
- 22 Sit around a campfire and toast marshmallows
- 23 Dig holes and trenches in your yard
- 24 Listen to the birds and imitate their song
- 25 Catch some bugs and then release them
- 26 Search for shells at the beach
- 27 Invent your own obstacle course using rocks and sticks
- 28 Blow on a dandelion flower and make a wish
- 29 Sit quietly and watch ants, snails or birds
- 30 Water some plants with a watering can
- 31 Have a picnic under a big shady tree
- 32 Jump in a puddle
- 33 Chase butterflies around the garden
- 34 Play with a ball at an oval or on the beach
- 35 Paddle at the beach or a backyard wading pool
- 36 Play shops under a tree with seedpods and leaves
- 37 Visit a botanical garden
- 38 Balance along a log or some stepping stones
- 39 Go for a night walk with a torch in the garden
- 40 Climb a big hill and look at the view
- 41 Explore a rock pool or create your own
- 42 Have story time outside on a rug
- 43 Catch rain on your tongue
- 44 Sprout some fast-growing seeds
- 45 Play 'peek-a-boo' from behind a tree
- 46 Ride a trike or scooter to the park
- 47 Roll down a grassy hill
- 48 Pick a posy of flowers for someone you love
- 49 Count the stars at dusk

Find out why at www.natureplayqld.org.au
and check out the 51 things to do before you're 12

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