

BUG HOTELS

playspace card

Step into a fascinating world of mini beasts, where children are invited to explore bugs, insects, and their natural habitats through hands-on discovery and creative play. As young investigators, children can observe, sort, and examine a variety of insects while learning about where they live and how they survive. This engaging playspace weaves together STEM, art, and maths as children count legs, compare sizes, and build habitats using natural and loose parts. Through sensory exploration and inquiry-based learning, children are encouraged to ask questions, make connections, and develop a deeper understanding of the small creatures that play a big role in our environment.

CREATING THIS SPACE

we've got you covered

Browse a curated list of everything we used to create this space on our website!

→ bellbird.com.au/inspiring-playspaces

Whether you're topping up your own resource collection or want to purchase the whole playspace, Bellbird has you covered!

PLAYSPACE BUNDLES

what's included?

→ Purchase all the resources used to put this playspace together so you can set it up in your own space and style!

- *Brilliant Bugs (SKU 000000)*

*Please note that the photography does not show all items from the resource sets. Purchasing this Playspace includes complete sets beyond those displayed.

OUR HERO PIECES

in this space

- The Book of Brilliant Bugs – Hardcover Book ([SKU 134794](#))
- Bug Hotel 10-Frame ([SKU 113432](#))
- Sensory Play Stones – Bugs ([SKU 113433](#))
- Insect X-Rays and Picture Cards – 72pcs ([SKU 110863](#))
- Let's Investigate Tactile Stones – Bugs ([SKU 113273](#))
- Let's Roll – Garden Bugs ([SKU 113295](#))
- CollectA Insects & Bug Life Replica – Set of 9 ([SKU 155205T](#))
- Mini Beasts – Beetles & Bugs Large Set ([SKU 116173](#))



Flip over the page for links to the EYLF, Planning Cycle and Implementation/Extension tips



Take some of the guess work out of the 'why' behind the 'what' and let the Bellbird playspace cards help guide you to create engaging and meaningful learning opportunities.



THE BIGGER THOUGHTS

learning themes and connections

Wondering what topics and themes you might see children exploring whilst engaging in this playspace? Check out some relevant learning themes here:

- ➔ Entomology
- ➔ Nature Inquiry
- ➔ Classification
- ➔ Habitats
- ➔ Sensory Play
- ➔ STEM



PROMOTING THINKING DURING PLAY

engaging with children

Help children to think deeper about the topics you're exploring by engaging with them during play! Use open-ended questions to challenge and develop children's thoughts and ideas about what they're learning. You could ask children:

- ➔ Why might some insects be active at night and others during the day?
- ➔ Why do you think insects are important to our environment?
- ➔ How might insects protect themselves from danger?



LINKING TO THE LEARNING BEHIND PLAY

possible links to the early years learning framework

You might find children engaging in the following learning outcomes from the EYLF:

- ➔ Learning Outcome 2.1: Children develop a sense of connectedness to groups and communities and an understanding of their reciprocal rights and responsibilities as active and informed citizens
- ➔ Learning Outcome 4.2: Children resource their own learning through connecting with people, place, technologies and natural and processed materials



EXTENDING PLAY: WHERE TO NEXT

extension ideas and prompts for continued inquiry

- ➔ Provide visual aids and materials for children to explore and recreate life cycles (e.g. butterfly or beetle) using playdough, drawings, or loose parts, encouraging sequencing, scientific thinking, and understanding of change over time.
- ➔ Take children outdoors with magnifying glasses and collection jars to search for insects in their natural habitats. Encourage them to observe, document, and discuss what they find, fostering curiosity, observation skills, and respect for living things.
- ➔ Learn about how Museum Victoria learns about bugs and conduct your own observations, you can even ask them for help identifying what you find! Learn more here:
 - [Backyard Bioblitz activity](#) - Museum Victoria on YouTube



EVALUATING EXPERIENCES

prompts for critical reflection

- ➔ What worked well and why? What will I do differently next time?
- ➔ What feedback did children give, and how can I include their voices in future experiences?



MORE INSPIRATION

Want some more guidance and ideas on engaging environments? We've got you covered!

- ➔ bellbird.com.au/inspiring-playspaces

