

DEAR ZOO

playspace card

Step into the enchanting world of "Dear Zoo" with our immersive playspace, where imagination knows no bounds. Inspired by Rod Campbell's beloved book, this interactive adventure invites children to create their own zoo. Bring the story to life with vibrant animals and quality resources. Little adventurers can discover the joy of storytelling, learning about animals and their habitats in a playful and engaging way. This experience encourages creativity and curiosity, inspiring young minds to dream big and imagine endless possibilities in their own wondrous zoo creations.

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!

ALL THE RESOURCES YOU NEED and where to find them

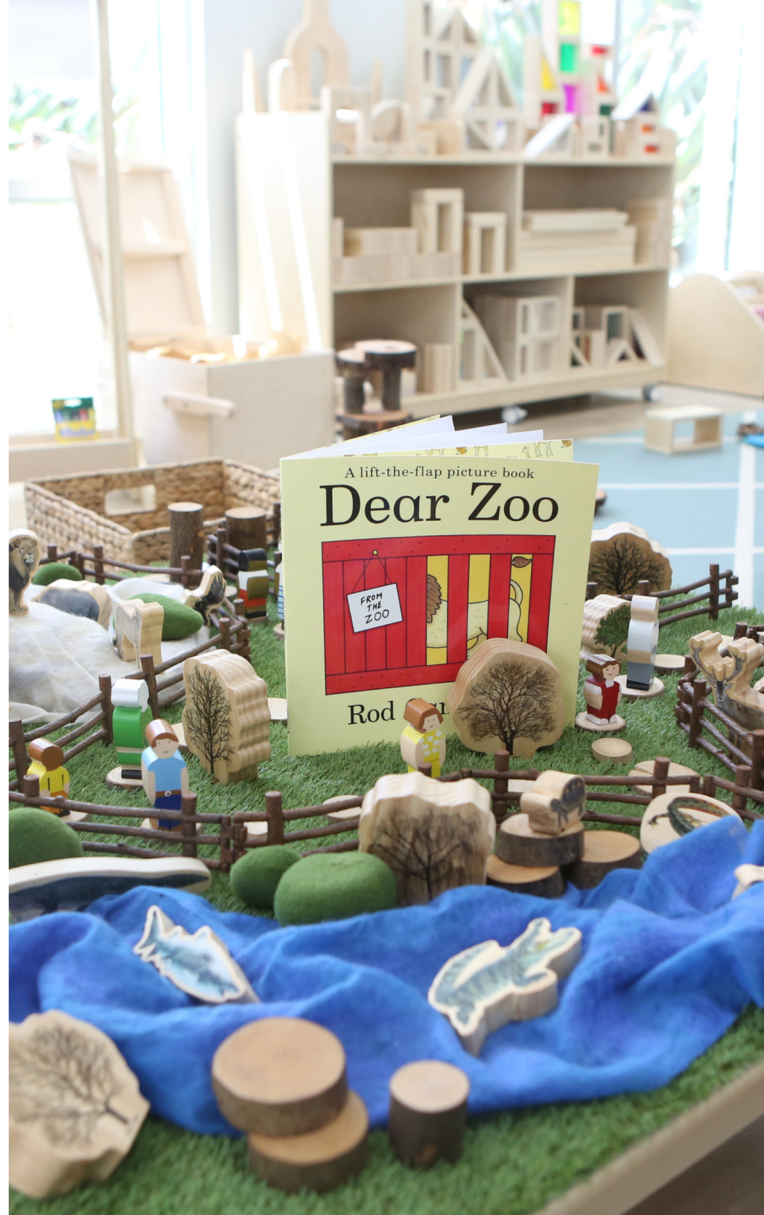
→ Looking for some more inspirational Playspace ideas? We've got plenty, head over to the Bellbird site to browse our Inspiring Playspace category and grab you FREE Playspace Cards!

- bellbird.com.au/inspiring-playspaces

*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

- Dear Zoo - Paperback Book ([SKU 134374](#))
- Wooden Wild Animals Blocks - 15pcs ([SKU 133387](#))
- Magic Wood Tree Blocks & Cart - 144pcs ([SKU 140320](#))
- Multicultural Wooden Family Set - 8 Family Set ([SKU 130513T](#))
- CollectA Animal Replica - Log Fence ([SKU 155077](#))



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:

- ➔ Pretend Play
- ➔ Zoo's
- ➔ Animal Habitats
- ➔ Pet's
- ➔ Caring for Animals
- ➔ Animal Conservation



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:

- ➔ Have you ever been to the zoo? Can you tell me about it?
- ➔ What kind of animals did you see or would you like to see at the zoo, what do you know about them?
- ➔ What do you think a zoo keeper does?
- ➔ How can we help take care of animals?



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 2.4: Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment
- ➔ Learning Outcome 4.3: Children transfer and adapt what they have learned from one context to another



EXTENDING PLAY: WHERE TO NEXT

extension ideas and prompts for continued inquiry

- ➔ Extend engagement with this story and incorporate music such as:
 - [Dear Zoo Story Song by Kathy Bumblebee \(Kathy Halter on YouTube\)](#)
- ➔ Further explore animals and children's own experiences with them by using resources such as [Tune into Animal Sounds \(SKU 113337\)](#)
- ➔ Research with children and explore the role of a zoo keeper using books or videos such as:
 - [A day in the life of an Australia Zoo Keeper / Australia Zoo Life \(Australia Zoo on YouTube\)](#)



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

