

INSECT DISCOVERY

playspace card

Invite children into an engaging discovery space where they can investigate the fascinating world of mini beasts through hands-on exploration and open-ended play. A variety of natural materials such as leaves, bark, pine cones and timber blocks create an inviting habitat for children to search, observe and uncover hidden insects as they explore different environments. Replica bugs, wooden insects and larger jumbo bugs encourage close investigation, imaginative storytelling and dramatic play; while magnifying glasses, bug viewers or specimen slides support children to closely observe features, compare similarities and differences, and ask questions about the living world. This immersive playspace nurtures curiosity and scientific thinking.

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 INSPIRATION YOU NEED and where to find it

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

- Billy Kidz Hex Tuff Tray & Stand - Jungle Green ([SKU 132686](#))
- Clear Bug Viewer ([SKU 133461](#))
- Mini Beasts Specimen Slides & Viewer - Air ([SKU 116182](#))
- Mini Beasts Specimen Slides & Viewer - Insect Life Cycles ([SKU 116184](#))
- Mini Beasts - Insects & Spiders Large Set ([SKU 116161](#))
- Wooden Minibeasts - 15pcs ([SKU 133385](#))
- The Book of Brilliant Bugs - Hardcover Book ([SKU 134794](#))
- Magic Wood Tree Blocks & Chest - 144pcs ([SKU 140320](#))
- CollectA Insects & Bug Life Replica - Set of 9 ([SKU 155205T](#))



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:

- Bugs and Insects
- Ecosystems
- Nature Inquiry
- Entomology



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:

- What kind of bugs and insects can you find?
- Do all bugs move the same? What are some of the ways that they move?
- Can you show me how your favourite bugs moves with your body?



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 4.1: Children develop a growth mindset and learning dispositions such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity.



EXTENDING PLAY: WHERE TO NEXT

extension ideas and prompts for continued inquiry

- Extend scientific discovery by heading outdoors and searching for insects and bugs in nature using magnifying glasses, binoculars, bug viewers or even hand held pocket microscopes (SKU 132424)
- Children can create their own bugs and insects using natural or craft materials.
- Use technology to extend children's understanding, source educational YouTube videos such as:
 - [The Butterfly Life Cycle | Educational Videos For Kids](#) - The Ranger Zak Show 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

