

CHILDREN'S WEEK



There is no need to travel overseas or interstate to experience a forest, the Top End has real forests for you to explore

Forests and fairy tales mean fun for all children

BACK IN 1954 the United Nations general assembly proclaimed Universal Children's Day as a day to promote friendship and understanding among children of the world.

From these beginnings, it developed into a day that focused attention on the issues and needs of children and their families.

The day of celebration has since evolved into a week.

Each year UNICEF decides on a worldwide theme and 2011 is the year of the forest.

One may well ask what forests have got to do with young children.

We live in a world where environmental changes are accelerating at a rate that the world has never experienced before.

Our forests are disappearing and the wildlife that makes it their home are becoming extinct.

Children as young as three years old can be introduced to the concepts of caring for our forests as habitats for wildlife.

The care and enjoyment of forests can also be experienced in the Top



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End. For example children and parents can explore Holmes Jungle, which is nestled on the fringes of Darwin's northern suburbs.

It is home to a large number of birds, mammals and reptiles, which breed and seek refuge in the dense vegetation.

Holmes Jungle provides parents and children the opportunity to experience first hand a real forest.

Research the forest with your child prior to the visit to the jungle.

Your child will love the one-on-one attention, which will strengthen your bond with your child while providing an educational project.

Forests have a place in fairy tales such as the much loved fable *Little Red Riding Hood*.

The wicked wolf hung out in the forest and he tricked Little Red Riding Hood into picking flowers for her grandmother while he schemed how he was going to have her for lunch.

The wood cutter came along and saved the day.

The story doesn't tell us whether the wood cutter was into environmental issues or not, but what it does tell us is that good reigns over evil and that it all took place in the forest.

Darwin City Council has also created a rain forest in the Darwin Botanical Gardens.

The forest has easy baby stroller access so the whole family can enjoy the experience while checking out the palms, trees and wildlife.

There is no need to travel overseas or interstate to experience a forest.

The Top End has real forests for you to explore.

All you have to do is set aside an hour or two and get into a Darwin forest and discover for yourself the richness and diversity of the wildlife that is abundant in our forests.



Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children



Territory Child Care Group Inc



Children's Week Free Family Fun Events

Wednesday 26th October, 2011 0 - 5 years
Jingili Water Gardens, **9:00am - 12:00pm**
Concert with Fairy Jill, **FREE** sausage sizzle, face painting, craft activities, **FREE** transport, jumping castle and much more

Saturday 29th October, 2011 5 - 12 years
Leanyer Recreation Park, **10:00am - 1:00pm**
FREE sausage sizzle, **FREE** transport, water activities, rock climbing, face painting and much more



If you would like more information, please contact
Email: t.sellers@darwin.nt.gov.au Phone: 8930 0561 Fax: 8930 0644

Public Transport is **FREE** to both events.
(You can ride the bus for free to and from events. Just say you are attending the Family Fun Event for Children's Week)