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RAINY DAY PLAY



We searched the country to find Australia's best indoor activity centres

New South Wales

WANNABEES FAMILY PLAY CENTRE, FRENCHS FOREST

It's always dress-up time in the land of Wannabees, which features a post office, police station, hospital, supermarket, beauty salon and pretty much anything else you'd hope to find in a small town. www.wannabees.com.au

JUNGLE BUDDIES, FIVE DOCK

Next to famed Pasticceria Papa is the largest play structure in NSW. And, taking cues from its neighbour, Jungle Buddies offers quality cuisine at its café, with a decent selection of organic, vegetarian, gluten-free and peanut-free foods. www.junglebuddies.com.au

Victoria

CREATION PLAY CENTRE, NARRE WARREN

Using the Imagination Playground lightweight building-block system, Creation encourages learning through play. It's here that kids can create their own fun using the large, soft blocks as inspiration – houses, rockets, surfboards, you name it! www.creationplay.com.au

SUPER ZU, DINGLEY

This zoo-themed centre – complete with a volcano, cave and moving animal sculptures – will give kids their first safari experience. www.superzu.com.au

Queensland

ABRAKIDAZZLE, SOUTHPORT

A multi-level maze with two twisty slides, tunnels and rope bridges, and a special under-4s area with mini cars, a driving track and soft play equipment, will keep kids busy until their tums start grumbling. Parents can relax with a coffee inside the glass-enclosed, sound-reduced café on site. www.abrakidazzle.com.au

BOUNCE, TINGALPA

One for kids aged three and up, Bounce features more than 100 interconnected trampolines and giant airbags with slam-dunk arenas and dodgeball courts. Book in advance – this place is popular! www.bounceinc.com.au

OUR FAVOURITES

AMARDY, MUM TO THREE-AND-A-HALF YEAR-OLD VIENNA

"We love Doodlebugs in Miami, Queensland. It has a lot of different play areas, including a separate toddler area, so I don't have to worry about Vienna getting hurt accidentally by the older kids. There's also a small café so I can enjoy a cuppa and relax while Vienna tires herself out."

RICHARD, DAD TO EMILY, FOUR

"What I really want from a morning out with my daughter is for her to end up thoroughly exhausted – so we go trampolining. Not on a typical backyard tramp, though. JumpAbout Trampoline Park in Rivervale, WA, has a wall-to-wall sea of trampolines. You can jump between them and even bounce off the sides. The best bit is that adults can join in too, so we jump around together until my knees start to buckle, then I just sit back and watch Emily wear herself out, secure in the knowledge it'll buy me an especially peaceful afternoon."

STACEY, MUM TO OLIVER, THREE, AND LEXI, 16 WEEKS

"We love Jungle Buddies in Five Dock, NSW. It's big, clean, modern, has lots to do, and the café is great. The staff are nice, too. And its prices are reasonable compared to other places."

Tasmania

FAR OUT PLAY CENTRE, MORNINGTON

Parents bring their kids here for the play equipment (jumping castle, cannons, slides, ball pit, flying fox) and free adult entry, but they return for the well-hosted parties. Less than \$25 per guest will get you two hours in a private themed party room, invitations, lolly bags, coffee on arrival for mum and dad, and a whole lot of cordial, water and fun food. www.faroutplaycentre.com

South Australia

CROC'S PLAYCENTRE, KILBURN

A designated soft-play baby area right next to café seating, a toddler jumping castle and slides, a multi-level ball battlezone, a four-lane wave slide, a bike track with ride-ons as well as cookie-decorating and disco nights. What's not to love? www.crocsplaycentre.com.au

Western Australia

MIGHTY JUNGLE, MORLEY

Now under new management, this centre has a gated play area with all the usual bits and bobs, a PlayStation section for the more tech-addicted kids and a café that caters to special dietary requirements. A crèche will soon be offered, too. www.mightyjungle.com.au

Northern Territory

PLAYSHACK NT, PALMERSTON

With a separate area for kids up to four and another for four- to 12-year-olds, as well as a café serving chai lattes, iced coffees, flavoured milks and catering for those with gluten and dairy intolerances, this is the winner of Australia's Top End. www.theplayshack.com.au



A COMFY FIT
The new Medela Stretch nursing bra, \$36.95, makes feeding on the go easy, with a practical and discreet design that's perfect during the early stages of nursing. Available in Small to Extra Large sizes and in Black and White.

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