



Aussie Fun Fest

You don't want your community to miss out on this awesome VBS, so get the word out by hosting your very own promo event called the Aussie Fun Fest. This is a carnival-type event held two to three weeks before VBS so you can preregister children, build excitement, and spread the word throughout the community.

The Fun Fest will be a good time filled with games, crafts, activities, and snacks. Admission is free. Invite the community by setting up an event page on Facebook and by mailing or handing out ["You're Invited!" invitations](#) to church attendees, friends, sports teams, clubs, and family.

For a list and description of suggested activities to offer at your carnival, check the following pages. ([Activities](#) are also on the Digital Resources.)

Many of these suggestions can also be incorporated into VBS week or the closing program if not used prior to VBS.

Setup

- Decide if your event will be indoors or outdoors. If indoors, use a multipurpose room. If outdoors, choose a grassy area or a safe area of the church parking lot.
- Each activity should have its own space, a sign with its name, prize tickets, and a marker or stamp (item 11-9-093) to use on each child's master ticket.
- Use folding tables or large cardboard boxes for activities requiring a base. Drape each table with a colorful, thematic tablecloth, fabric, or sheet. Attach boards, PVC pipe, or long cardboard tubes to each side of the table. Stretch a colorful sign made from roll paper between the two boards and add some colorful balloons.

- A simpler option is to use rope, cones, or sidewalk chalk to mark individual activity spaces.
- Choose a few of the decorating suggestions found in the decorating section. Keep it fun, colorful, and simple.
- Play VBS music.

Staffing

- Enlist at least one worker for each activity area. Church families may want to sign up to decorate, organize, and staff one activity each. This divides the workload into small, manageable pieces.
- Workers should dress in VBS T-shirts or Aussie-themed clothing.
- Friendly, costumed greeters can welcome the arriving families.

Registration

- Set up the registration area near the entrance to your event. Warmly greet each arriving family.
- Check everyone in.
- Copy extra [carnival master tickets](#) on bright card stock. Cut apart. Give one to each child. This ticket enables children to participate in each activity once and will be marked or stamped at each location when it is completed.
- Sign up any unregistered children for VBS. (See [registration forms](#) on the Digital Resources.)

Activities and Games

Note: Some of the games need a start line, finish line, or throwing line. These can be made from painter's tape, masking tape, rope, cones, or chalk.

DIY Luggage Tag

SUPPLIES

- » Bright-colored fun foam or stiff felt
- » Variety of tiny doo-dads (wiggle eyes, self-stick jewels, mini flowers, thin ribbon, rick-rack, mini beads, etc.)
- » Embroidery floss
- » Glue stick and/or Aleen's craft glue
- » Scissors

DIRECTIONS

- » Ahead of time, cut the fun foam or stiff felt into a tag shape, 1 per child, and punch a hole at the top middle. Put a 6-strand piece of embroidery floss through the punched hole and tie it.
- » Children will decorate their luggage tag however they like. It can be put on a backpack or piece of luggage so it is easy to spot in a crowd.
- » Players get 1 ticket after completing this activity.

Carry the Croc Eggs

SUPPLIES

- » 1–2 dozen plastic eggs
- » 1 bucket or bowl
- » Timer
- » A nest (made from a blanket, an upside-down straw hat, etc.)



DIRECTIONS

- » Place the crocodile eggs (plastic eggs) in the nest about 10 feet from the start line. Place the bucket by the start line.
- » Explain before playing that there are many salties (salt-water crocodiles) that live in Australia. They can grow to be up to 20 feet long! Crocodiles lay eggs to have babies.
- » Put 20 seconds on the clock. One at a time, players try to get as many croc eggs as possible into the bucket before time is up. They can only transport two eggs at a time.
- » Give 1 ticket for participating and an additional ticket to anyone that gets at least 6 eggs in the basket.

Face Painting

SUPPLIES

- » Face paints
- » Paintbrushes
- » Wet wipes
- » [Face Painting Reference Chart](#)

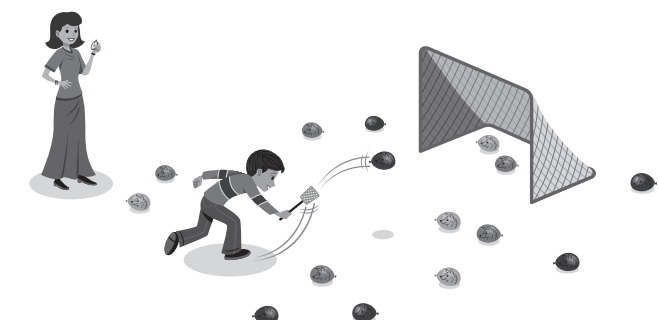
DIRECTIONS

- » Paint the kids' faces using images on the Face Painting Reference Chart.
- » Give 1 prize ticket after completing this activity.



Dingo Roundup

SUPPLIES



- » 15–20 balloons with dingo faces drawn on them with a permanent marker
- » 1 fly swatter
- » 1 goal—can be a trash can or bucket on its side, a soccer goal, a large cardboard box on its side, etc.
- » Timer (cell phone timer works)

DIRECTIONS

- » Before playing, mention that dingoes are wild dogs that live in Australia. They are very fast and have been clocked running 30 miles per hour.
- » Players have 20 seconds to try to corral the dingoes with the fly swatter and herd them into the goal.
- » Give 1 ticket for participating and an additional ticket for every balloon that makes it into the goal in the allotted time.

Great Barrier Reef Photo Spot

SUPPLIES

- » Photo spot backdrop (make your own or use the Photo Op scene setter, 11-9-127)
- » Step stool for small children
- » Camera (smartphone can work)



DIRECTIONS

- » Make or buy the photo spot and put it up. There are [clip art](#) images on the Digital Resources you may want to use if making your own.
- » Children stand behind the backdrop and put their face through the hole. Photograph them and print the picture (either at the carnival or later) to give to them. You may want to have a spot during VBS where they can pick them up.
- » Give 1 prize ticket after completing this activity.

Knock It Off

SUPPLIES

- » 6 empty plastic cups or aluminum cans (make sure no sharp edges; decorate with colorful contact paper or craft paper)
- » 6 pictures of animal pals and/or VBS logos (see Digital Resources)
- » Bean bags
- » Crate or box
- » Cones to mark throw line

DIRECTIONS

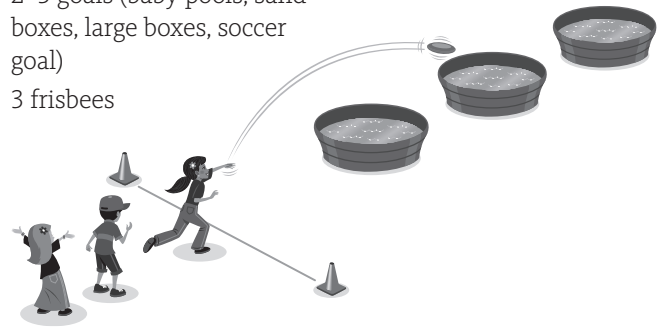
- » Set up the cups or cans in a pyramid shape about 10 feet from the throw line.
- » Players have 3 tries to knock over all the cans.
- » Give 1 ticket for participating and 3 for knocking over all the cans.



Frisbee Golf

SUPPLIES

- » 2-3 goals (baby pools, sandboxes, large boxes, soccer goal)
- » 3 frisbees



DIRECTIONS

- » Before playing, place 2-3 large goals on the ground. Set up the throw line at least 5 feet in front of the first goal. Place the second (and third if using three goals) 5 or more feet beyond the first goal.
- » Players try to throw the frisbee into one of the goals. They have 3 tries.
- » Give 1 prize ticket for participating, 2 for every frisbee that makes it in the first goal, 3 for every frisbee that makes it in the second goal, and 4 for every frisbee that makes it in the third goal.

Lolly Water Stack

SUPPLIES

- » 6 or more empty soda cans
- » Table or smooth-surface box or bin

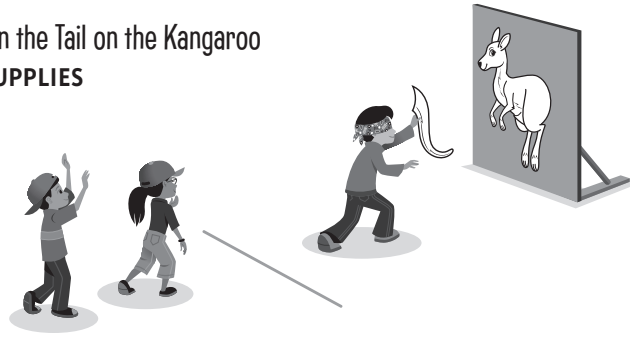
DIRECTIONS

- » Tell players that a name for soda in Australia is lolly water.
- » Players see how many cans of lolly water they can stack on top of each other before their lolly water tower falls over.
- » Give 1 ticket for participating and another ticket for every can that is successfully stacked before the tower falls.
- » Note: Make sure any sharp tabs on lid tops are covered.



Pin the Tail on the Kangaroo

SUPPLIES



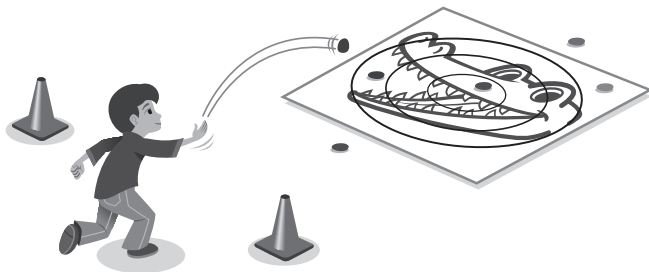
- » Kangaroo poster (see Digital Resources for clip art)
- » Kangaroo tail cutouts
- » Blindfold
- » Tape

DIRECTIONS

- » Draw a kangaroo on a piece of poster board and attach it to a wall or firm surface. Use the kangaroo you've drawn to trace the end part of its tail. Make several tail pieces. Laminate if possible.
- » Play with at least two players each round.
- » Tell them God gave the kangaroo a large and powerful tail that also helps it with balance.
- » Blindfold one player at a time and spin him around 3 times. He then tries to walk to the kangaroo scene and attach the tail to the correct spot. Continue with other players.
- » Give 1 ticket for participating and 2 extra tickets for the person that gets it closest to the right spot each round.

Rock the Croc

SUPPLIES



- » Rock the Croc backdrop mounted on a firm surface
- » 3 beanbags

DIRECTIONS

- » Place the Rock the Croc backdrop flat on the ground.
- » Before playing, mention that crocodiles, which are numerous in Australia, can jump more than 6 feet high in the air!
- » Players throw 3 beanbags, 1 at a time, and try to get them into one of the three concentric circles.
- » Earn a ticket for each beanbag in the outermost circle, 2 for each one in the middle, and 3 for each beanbag in the center circle.

Pool Noodle Pass

SUPPLIES

- » 1 pool noodle cut in half
- » 1 small- to medium-size beach ball

DIRECTIONS

- » Players stand at the throw line holding the pool noodle like a baseball bat.
- » The leader tosses the beach ball to the player, who attempts to hit it with the pool noodle.
- » Allow 3 tries.
- » Players get 1 ticket for participating and an additional ticket for each time they hit the beach ball.



Down Under Drawing Contest

SUPPLIES

- » [Coloring page](#), 1 per person
- » Crayons or markers

DIRECTIONS

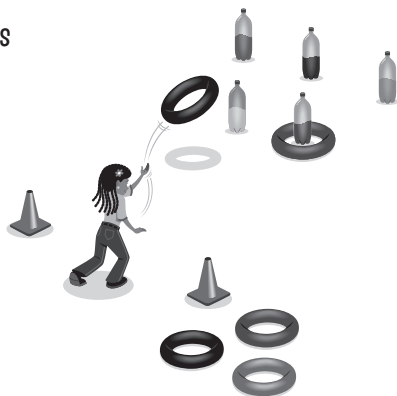
- » Mention that Australia is called the Land Down Under because it's located far down in the Southern Hemisphere.
- » To complete the Down Under Drawing Contest, have each child color the scene and turn in their sheet. Make sure names are on each one.
- » At the end of the carnival or sometime during VBS, announce the winners of the Coloring Contest. You may want to have several age categories, such as ages 4-6, 7-9, and 10 and up. You may also want to have several winners per category.
- » Give 1 prize ticket after completing this activity and extra tickets or a small prize to those who win.



Aussie Olympic Ring Toss

SUPPLIES

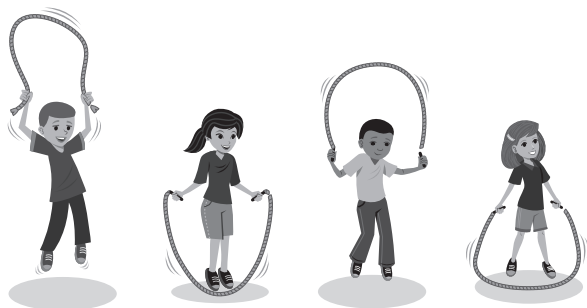
- » 5 two-liter bottles filled with colored water or sand in the colors of the Olympic rings (yellow, blue, red, green, black)
- » 5 pool rings, preferably in Olympic colors



DIRECTIONS

- » Set up the two-liter bottles like the picture. The throw line should be at least 3 feet away from the first row of bottles.
- » Before playing, mention that the last Olympics that took place in Australia was in Sydney. The mascots were Syd the Platypus, Millie the Echidna, and Olly the Kookaburra.
- » Players have 5 tries to throw a ring over a bottle.
- » Give 1 prize ticket for participating and 1 more ticket for each ring that lands over a bottle.

Jump Rope Competition



SUPPLIES

- » Jump ropes, 1 per player
- » Music and music player

DIRECTIONS

- » Gather a group of children for a jump roping contest. Play some music and see who can jump rope the longest. The player who does so is the winner.
- » Give 1 ticket to each participant and 2 extra tickets for the winning jumper.

Lifesaver Lollies

SUPPLIES

- » Nonbreakable jar
- » Lifesavers gummy candies
- » Small pieces of paper
- » Writing utensils
- » Sand pail



DIRECTIONS

- » Explain that lollies is another name for candy or sweets in Australia.
- » Players write their names and guesses for how many Lifesavers are in the jar and place it in the sand pail. At the end of the event, announce the person who had the closest guess and give them the jar to take home.
- » Give 1 ticket for each person who puts a guess in.

Rainbow Reef

SUPPLIES

- » 30–40 clear plastic punch cups
- » Food coloring
- » Water
- » 4 or more pennies
- » Low table or sturdy box to set cups on



DIRECTIONS

- » Place the cups next to each other to create a rectangle full of cups. Fill them each $\frac{3}{4}$ full and make them different-colored water using the food coloring. This represents the many colors of the coral reef. Make only 1 red cup. Place it the farthest away from the throw line.
- » Before playing, mention that 1 out of every 10 fish in the whole world live in the Great Barrier Reef in Australia!
- » Players stand 1 foot from the table and have 4 tries to toss a penny into a cup.
- » Players get 1 ticket for participating, 2 tickets for each penny that goes in a cup, and 10 tickets if a penny goes in the red cup.

Ride the Wave

SUPPLIES

- » Plastic cups
- » Pitcher of water

DIRECTIONS

- » Fill the cup half full with water.
- » Players lie down on the ground while the leader places the cup on their forehead.
- » The goal is to sit up without letting the cup tip over. No hands allowed on the cup!
- » Give 1 ticket for participating and 3 for successfully completing the challenge.



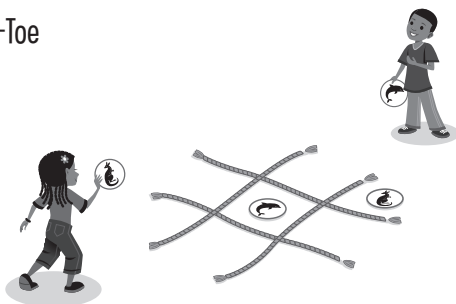
Surf and Turf Tic-Tac-Toe

SUPPLIES

- » Rope or long jump ropes with which to make gigantic tic-tac-toe grid
- » 5 dolphin cut-outs and 5 kangaroo cutouts (see Digital Resources)

DIRECTIONS

- » Before playing, cut out and (optional) laminate the dolphins and kangaroos. Make the jumbo tic-tac-toe board.
- » Players can play against another player or against a leader. One uses the dolphins (the surf) and one the kangaroos (the turf). Play like Tic-Tac-Toe.
- » Players get 1 ticket for participating and another if they win the round.



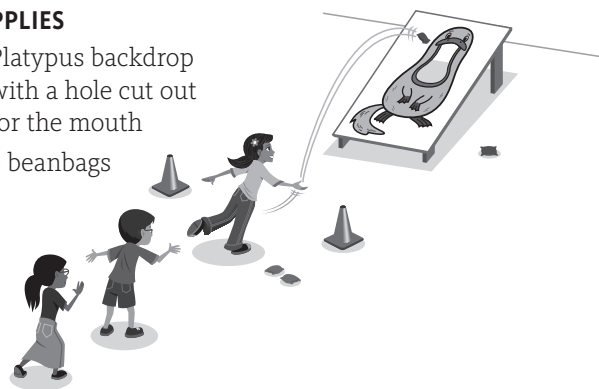
Hungry, Hungry Platypus

SUPPLIES

- » Platypus backdrop with a hole cut out for the mouth
- » 3 beanbags

DIRECTIONS

- » Before playing, mention that God created the platypus with pouches in its cheeks to scoop food into, like snails and worms.
- » Players have 3 tries to throw the shrimp (beanbags) into the hungry platypus' mouth.
- » Give 1 ticket for participating and an extra ticket for each beanbag that makes it in the platypus' mouth.



Sun-sational Souvenirs

- » Set up the Sun-sational Souvenirs area with various prizes worth various numbers of tickets. Children turn in their tickets to receive prizes. Check the *Resource Catalog*, *Oriental Trading Company*, or *Rhode Island Novelties* for inexpensive prize possibilities. The following are potential prizes: plastic boomerangs, outback hats, sunglasses, plastic, rubber, or stuffed animal fish, kangaroos, koalas, kookaburras, crocodiles, or snakes, sticky lizards, stretchy bugs, glow in the dark stars, globe balls, water bottles, hand clappers, sticky hands, squishy eyeballs, gummy worms, Sour Patch Kids, Wiley Wallaby Licorice, Tim Tams, Cadbury chocolate, or Nestle Chokito.
- » Another option is to give prizes at each location. If this option is chosen, children will need bags of some kind to keep their prizes in as they move from activity to activity.





Takeaway Treats

Set up the Takeaway Treats area and choose one or more fun snacks from the suggestions listed below. Make signs that announce the name of each snack.

Note: There are also lots of additional great ideas in the *Top Koala-ty Treats Snack Guide* and the Training Workshop section of this guide. You may want to make some of the snacks you will be serving during VBS week. Check out the snack guide!

MINI PAVLOVAS

- » Aussies claim to have invented pavlova and consider it a favorite dessert—a light and crunchy meringue delicacy. Check online for a recipe and serve with fresh fruit pieces on top.

DAMPER

- » Damper is a traditional Australian soda bread that was first eaten by early settlers and travelers. Check online for a recipe and serve with honey, jam, or syrup.

BANGER SANGERS

- » Banger stands for sausage in Australia (also called snags), and sanger means sandwich. Banger sangers are

popular in Australia and are similar to American hot dogs. Grill sausages in place of hot dogs and top with barbie sauce (BBQ) or tomato sauce (ketchup). Banger sangers are typically served with grilled onions, as well, but add whatever sounds good to you.

CAKEHOLE CUPCAKES

- » Aussies call their mouths their cakehole. Make or buy some cupcakes and enjoy using your cakehole to eat them.

LEMON SQUASH ICIES

- » Aussies call lemonade lemon squash. Make lemonade and freeze in individual mini plastic cups. Take out a little before serving so they can thaw just a little. Serve semi-frozen with a plastic spoon.

ICY POLES

- » Ice pops are called icy poles in Australia. Serve some on a hot day.

JUST CHILLIN' DRINKS

- » Spiders: This is another name for fizzy floats in Australia. Fill glasses with scoops of vanilla ice cream, then add root beer, cola, or other fizzy drinks to make floats.
- » Water: Wrap water bottles with labels that say [Aussie Agua](#) or [Ocean Water](#).
- » Lolly Water: This is another name for soda in Australia. Wrap any canned carbonated beverages with labels that say [Lolly Water](#).

Additional Ideas

- » Have the *Zoomerang* drama team or greeters dress in costume and mingle with the kids, acting in character.
- » Rent an inflatable.
- » Make balloon animals in the shape of Aussie animals or animal pals—kangaroo, koala, dingo, crocodile, snake, etc.
- » Do a Creature Feature. See the *Assembly Guide* to get an idea of how this works.