

Winter School Holidays 2026

A visit to
Arctic Activity Zone
at Darling Harbour

4 – 5 July
Convention Forecourt

 **DARLING
HARBOUR**



Guidelines

Thank you for choosing to use a Social Story written for Arctic Activity Zone at Darling Harbour Convention Forecourt.

This Social Story has been developed with support of Access Ability Australia and is suited for a person who may live with autism spectrum disorder, a language disorder, social communication difficulties and/or a cognitive delay or disability.

For your Social Story to be successful, we recommend you follow these guidelines.

- Read Social Story often and preferably two weeks in advance of visit.
- Social Story to be read and shared in an environment free of distractions.
- Be calm, comfortable and honest when reading a Social Story.
- Help the participant comprehend key points and consistently monitor for level of understanding.
- Once the visit has taken place, revisit the Social Story to celebrate success.

We hereby acknowledge the support and assistance provided by [Access Ability Australia](#) in helping to prepare this Social Story. We express our sincere appreciation to Access Ability Australia for their pivotal role in assisting us to highlight its commitment to accessibility and inclusion. Their expertise and support have played a vital role in ensuring that Arctic Activity Zone at Darling Harbour is welcoming to all individuals in our community.

Sensory Guide

A Sensory Guide helps people understand what they might feel, hear, see or smell. It's useful for people who are sensitive to sensory experiences, such as those with autism or sensory processing disorder. This guide can be helpful in dealing with new or challenging situations.

At Arctic Activity Zone at Darling Harbour :

I might feel

- Hard, soft, wet and dry art and craft materials
- Wet, cold snow like material
- Slippery slime materials
- Foam from the snow machines
- Shared personal space

I might hear

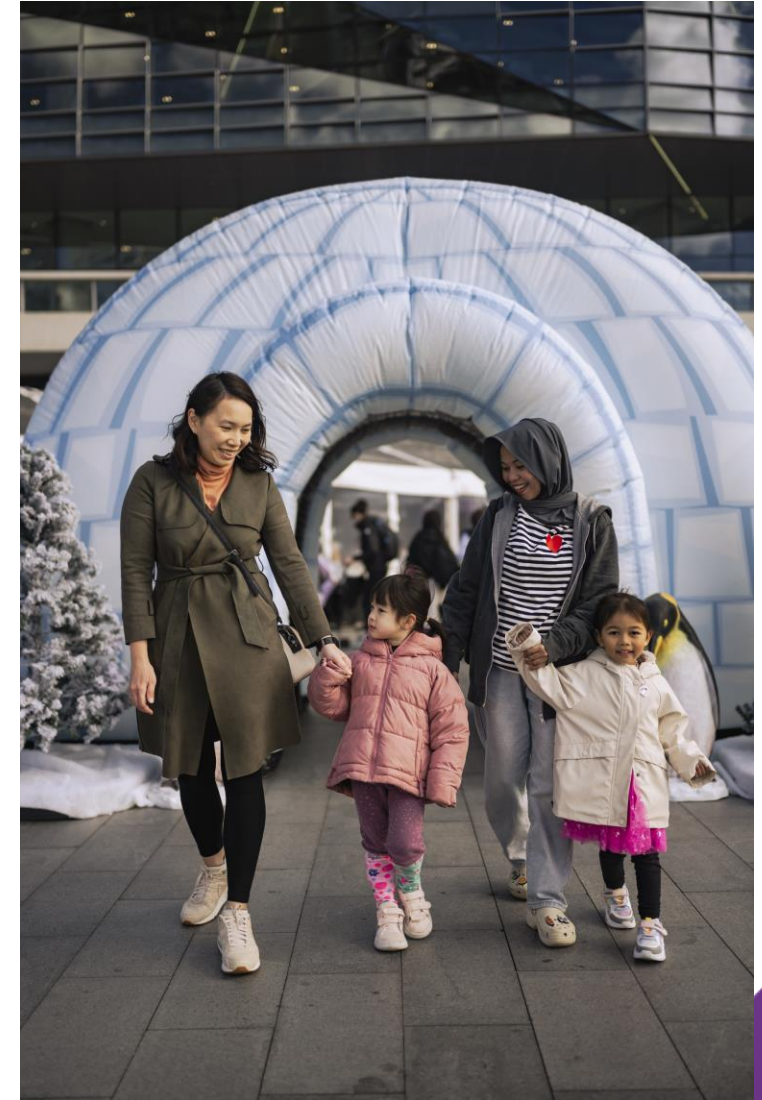
- Amplified voices
- Entertainment
- Performers
- Music
- Singing
- Traffic
- Water fountain
- Snow machines

I might see

- Dim lighting (inside Craft Camp)
- Bright coloured moving lights (inside Dance Den)
- Children playing
- Crowd movement
- Dancing
- Large water fountain
- Penguin, tree and ice rock props
- Penguin and Polar Bear costumes

I might smell

- Food/Drink
- Sunscreen
- Paint
- Glue



I am going to a school holiday event at the Convention Centre Forecourt at Darling Harbour.

It is on Saturday July 4 to Sunday July 5.

This event is organised by Placemaking NSW.

This event is for kids to have fun, be imaginative, and get creative.



I will need to wear comfortable shoes and clothing.

It will be outdoors so I will need to dress in warm clothes.

I might want to bring my headphones or earbuds, along with some food and a drink.



When I arrive, I might see lots of people.

There will be event staff wearing black shirts with the “NSW government” logo.

Event staff can answer questions and help me with directions.

There will be two large tipi tents and some smaller tents.



There will a Craft Camp inside one of the large tipis tents.

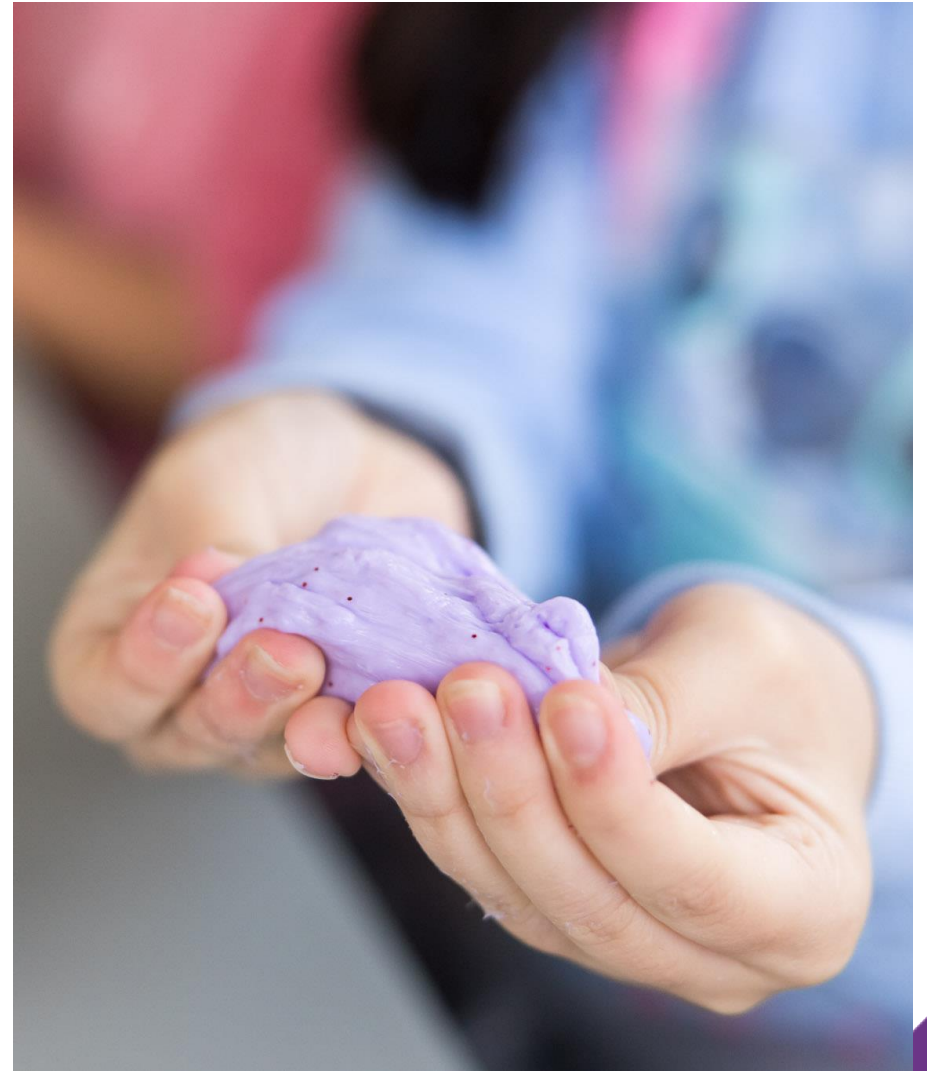
Inside I can make snowman and snowflake craft.

The Craft Camp activity will take place from 11am – 3pm on both Saturday and Sunday.

I can make slime on Saturday from 2pm – 3pm

I can make a Snow globes on Sunday from 2pm – 3pm.

Staff will be there to help me.



I can dance in the Dance Den inside the other large tipi tent.

It will have colourful lighting and music playing.

DJ's will invite me to play games and learn dance moves.

I can also sit on the comfortable seating around the sides and just enjoy the music.

The Dance Den activity will take place from 11am – 3pm on both Saturday and Sunday.

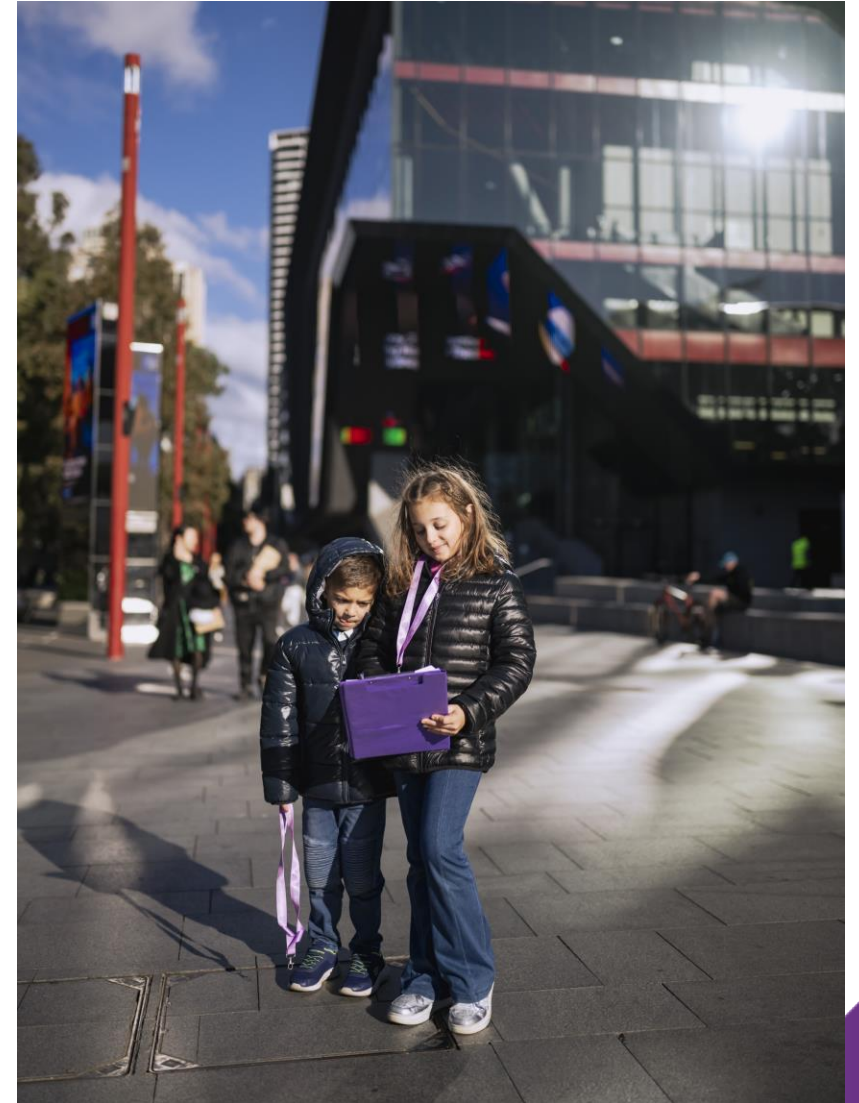


There will be a Scavenger Hunt meeting point at the small purple and pink tent.

I can join this activity anytime between 11am – 3pm on Saturday or Sunday.

I can collect a worksheet with clues to find hidden around Darling Harbour.

I will need a trusted adult to help me with this activity.



I can also play some large sized lawn games anytime between 11am and 3pm on Saturday and Sunday.

There will be a sensory snow pit I can make snowball animals in.

I may also see a large friendly Penguin or Polar Bear walking around the Activity Zone saying hello to people.



Convention Centre Forecourt might feel very busy and noisy.

There will be lots of people and lots of different noises including:

- People talking, laughing and having fun
- Music
- People playing games and eating food



I can wear my headphones or earbuds to help with the noise.

I can go to the small tent for some quiet time.

My trusted adult or staff can show me where the small tent is located.



The Arctic Activity Zone at Darling Harbour is so much fun!



Accessibility

- View [accessibility information](#) for Darling Harbour.
- Closest [accessible parking](#) at Harbourside carpark. Restrictions apply.
- General parking available at Harbourside carpark. Restrictions apply.
- Lift access from Harbourside carpark.
- Accessible pathway from Harbourside carpark to Convention Forecourt.
- Other parking options available. <https://www.darlingharbour.com/getting-here>
- Two open entry points into Convention Forecourt Arctic Activity Zone events.
- Ground surface of flat paving, and rugs (small area inside Dance Den).
- Toilets, including accessible toilets, approximately 100 metres from Convention Forecourt.
- Closest toilet with hoist and adult sized change table at International Convention Centre, Level 2, 14 Darling Drive, Sydney. Baby change facilities within these toilets.
- The Craft Camp and Dance Den activities are undercover.
- Each activity with staff to support and supervise.
- Pram parking available.
- Quiet space available in separate small tent with chairs, headphones, low lighting and sensory toys.
- Wayfinding signage.
- Rangers on site, supervising events.
- Rangers with first aid training.
- Fencing around event area include picket fences.
- Furniture includes bean bags, wooden stools as well as bench seats without back and armrests.
- Open entry to all activities.

CONTACT

Event address:
Convention Forecourt
14 Darling Drive
Darling Harbour NSW 2000

Ph 02 9240 8500 (Placemaking NSW)

www.darlingharbour.com/venues/icc-sydney-forecourt

