



IMAGINE Creative Club

After School Care Activity Program

Facilitator Guide

A flexible, creative activity program for Australian after school care settings





Facilitator Guide

This facilitator guide supports outside school hours care (OSHC) educators to confidently deliver the IMAGINE Creative Club activity plans. Inspired by the life-changing wishes granted by Make-A-Wish Australia, the program uses storytelling, creative activities, discussion and reflection to help children explore imagination, kindness, empathy, resilience, teamwork and community in a safe, positive and age-appropriate way.

Designed for flexible use in after school care, vacation care and other OSHC settings, the activity plans are easy to facilitate and include preparation notes, materials lists, activity instructions, discussion prompts and reflection ideas. Facilitators are encouraged to adapt activities to suit different ages, abilities, confidence levels and support needs, while keeping participation inclusive, engaging and child-led.

Activities can be delivered as an 8-week program, used as standalone sessions, or incorporated into centre displays and family showcases. The program supports key OSHC priorities including children's agency, creativity, social connection, emotional wellbeing, inclusion and community participation, while complementing existing program planning, policies and child-safe practice requirements.

Wellbeing and Participation Outcomes

- Children participate in relaxed, hands-on creative activities that support imagination, choice, confidence and self-expression.
- Children explore simple ideas about kindness, empathy, teamwork, hope and helping others through child-friendly stories, prompts and activities.
- Children build social connection by sharing materials, contributing to group projects, listening to others and celebrating different ideas.
- Children create individual or group projects that can be displayed within the service, shared with families or included in an optional centre showcase.
- Children are encouraged to reflect in simple, age-appropriate ways, including talking, drawing, choosing symbols, using movement or contributing to a shared group conversation.

Introducing Make-A-Wish Australia

Each activity may include a short storytelling moment connected to the Make-A-Wish journey. Facilitators should use only approved Make-A-Wish Australia stories, videos or child-safe case studies, and keep the focus on imagination, hope, joy, courage, kindness and the people who help make wishes possible. Children are not asked to focus on illness or sadness.

Suggested narrative arc: Activities begin with the idea that every wish starts with imagination. Children then explore simple themes such as empathy, hope, kindness, resilience, teamwork and community through stories, discussion, play, craft and hands-on making. The program can end with a reflection, group display or optional family showcase.

Activity Summary

Each activity plan and worksheet can be found on our resources page. Here is a summary:

Activity	Focus	Make-A-Wish connection	Creative activity	Reflection
1. Empathy in Focus	Children explore what it means to notice and care about how someone else might feel.	A Make-A-Wish story helps children think about feelings, perspective and kindness.	Empathy Glasses	How can we show care for someone else today?
2. Building Hope	Children explore hope as something that can lift others up and help us look forward.	A wish story shows how hope and joy can make a meaningful difference.	Hope Jar or Hope Lantern	What gives you hope or makes you feel encouraged?
3. Working Together	Children explore how teamwork, sharing and small kind actions can create something bigger together.	Make-A-Wish teams show how many people can work together to make wishes possible.	Wishing Tree	What did we make better by working together?
4. Strengthening Our Resilience	Children explore resilience, courage and inner strength through creative play.	A wish story introduces courage, strength and the support of others.	Resilience Mask	What helps you feel brave or keep trying?
5. The Art of Kindness	Children explore how small acts of kindness can brighten someone's day and connect a group.	A Make-A-Wish story highlights kindness, positivity and the impact of caring actions.	Patchwork of Kindness	What is one kind action we can try this week?
6. The Power of Imagination	Children celebrate imagination as a way to dream, create and think differently.	A wish story shows how imagination can be the beginning of something special.	Wishing Wand	What can imagination make possible?
7. Connected Communities	Children explore what community means and how small contributions can help others feel included.	Make-A-Wish is used as an example of people coming together to support a shared goal.	Kindness Rocks or Community Project	Who is part of our community, and how can we help each other?
8. Creative Problem Solvers	Children use creativity, teamwork and problem-solving to complete a playful challenge.	Make-A-Wish teams use creativity and teamwork to help make the impossible possible.	Creative Rescue Mission	What helped our group solve the challenge?

Observation and Evidence of Participation

Observation focus	What facilitators may notice
Participation and engagement	Children join in at their own level through making, talking, watching, helping, choosing materials, contributing to a group project or sharing ideas. Participation may look different for each child and should be supported with flexibility and choice.

Imagination and creative expression	Children use colour, shape, texture, symbols, storytelling, construction or movement to express ideas connected to imagination, hope, courage, kindness and helping others.
Understanding of program themes	Children begin to recognise and communicate simple ideas about empathy, kindness, teamwork, resilience, hope, community and helping others through conversation, creative choices or group reflection.
Connection to Make-A-Wish Australia	Children make gentle, age-appropriate connections between Make-A-Wish Australia's mission and the idea that imagination, kindness and community can help bring joy to wish kids and families.
Collaboration and social learning	Children practise taking turns, sharing materials, listening to others, contributing to group artworks and noticing how many small actions can create something meaningful together.
Reflection and communication	Children share what they made, what they noticed, how they felt or what they learned through talking, drawing, gesture, movement, educator-scribed comments or simple group discussion.

Creative Prompts

- If hope had a shape, what would it look like?
- Create a symbol for courage that does not use words.
- Imagine a sky filled with wishes. What would each star represent?
- Show the journey from “I wonder” to “I can”.
- Create a visual map of people helping one wish come to life.
- Use colour, line and texture to show resilience.
- Make one small artwork that only becomes complete when joined with others.

Reflection Prompts

Use these prompts as short verbal check-ins, circle-time questions, drawing prompts or simple worksheet starters. For younger children, educators may scribe responses or invite children to point, draw, colour, act out or choose from feeling cards.

- Before I began: The idea I wanted to explore was...
- My Make-A-Wish connection: My artwork connects to hope, imagination or resilience because...
- Creative choices: I used these colours, symbols, materials or techniques because...
- Challenge and persistence: Something difficult during the making process was... I responded by...
- Empathy: This activity helped me think about others by...
- Teamwork: My contribution helped the group artwork by...
- Audience impact: I hope visitors to the IMAGINE Art Show will feel or do...
- After the exhibition: One way our class made a difference was...

Note: These prompts can be used in conjunction with the Reflection Worksheets.

Facilitator Notes and Safeguarding Considerations

- Use only approved Make-A-Wish Australia stories, images and videos suitable for school audiences.
- Focus on hope, joy, imagination, courage, community and support rather than medical detail.
- Give students choice in how they respond creatively, particularly when exploring emotional themes.
- Encourage respectful language when discussing wish kids and families.
- Ensure fundraising activities follow the school's policies and Make-A-Wish Australia guidance.
- If including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives, consult appropriate local guidance and avoid using cultural symbols, stories or designs without permission.

Further Program Extension Ideas

- Create a student exhibition catalogue with artwork images, artist statements and reflections.
- Invite families to sponsor a star, panel or message of hope.
- Develop a short student-led presentation for assembly about the power of imagination and wishes.
- Use the artwork as a travelling display across the school library, office, local community centre or a partner venue.
- Invite local businesses, cafés or community spaces to support the program by displaying children's IMAGINE artworks, kindness messages, wish stars or class-created project pieces. Schools or centres could create a simple community art trail, where families visit participating locations to view the work, learn about Make-A-Wish Australia and, where appropriate, donate or take part in an approved fundraising activity. This extension helps children see how their creativity can travel beyond the classroom, bring people together and inspire the wider community to help make wishes come true.