

AWESOME Festival

2025 ACCESSIBILITY GUIDE



**Kwinana
Hub**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The AWESOME Festival and Barking Gecko Arts respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Western Australia, and Lands to which we travel nationally. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and acknowledge their deep historical and spiritual connection to culture, country, waterways, rivers and seas. We are honoured to create our work on Whadjuk Boodja, the ancestral lands of the Noongar people.





Foreword

Art is one of the sheer joys of life. Whether it is slapping some paint on canvas, bellowing a few scripted lines to an audience, or grooving to an infectious tune, there is no quicker way to touch happiness than through art.

Every child has a right to participate in art, yet not all children have ready access to it. Some can be hypersensitive to different sensory experiences, which can lead to high anxiety and an aversion to taking part in artistic experiences.

The AWESOME Festival has recognised this and has taken action through the development of their Accessibility Guide. This guide provides information that can help guide parents to the most appropriate shows for their children, and ensures that this wonderful festival is inclusive to all.

Congratulations to the AWESOME Festival for this pioneering guide, and I encourage everyone in the autism community to go and see the wonders on offer.



Professor Andrew Whitehouse

Angela Wright Bennett Professor of Autism Research Telethon Kids and University of Western Australia; Director, CliniKids



Access with AWESOME



Our goal in creating this guide is to provide the support to cater for all our bright young things. We have gathered information about all events being delivered at the AWESOME Festival Kwinana Hub, and listed any possible triggers that could be of attention in providing the most comfortable, joyful experience for all.

Ultimately, it is parents and carers who are best placed to understand their child's needs and responses. We hope that this guide helps you to make decisions about the best events for your family to attend at the 2025 AWESOME Festival Kwinana Hub.

How to use this Guide:

Within the guide you will find a rating scale at the bottom of each page. We encourage parents and carers to use the scale to evaluate the compatibility of the event with your child. This may assist in making decisions about what to see and do.

For easier navigation, all links in this document are clickable and will take you to other websites or pages.

Each event is also marked with an icon to indicate the type of events we have:



Literature



Exhibition



Theatre



Music



Community



Creative



5 - YES!



4



3 - MAYBE



2



1 - NO

Companion Cards:

Koorliny Arts Centre is an affiliate of the WA Companion Card program, providing Companion Card holders a second ticket for their carer at no extra cost (selected shows).

Please phone the Box Office on (08) 9467 7118 to book Companion Card tickets.



At the Festival:

Approach our team! All you need to do is say: "I have a child with additional needs." Our team member will respond: **"How can I help?"** and we will be guided by you to assist in any way that we can.

We will be wearing an AWESOME Festival t-shirt.



We can help you with:

- leaving a venue
- finding a quiet space
- getting into a venue early
- finding appropriate seating

Quiet Zones:

Sometimes the Festival 'vibe' can be overwhelming or over-stimulating for children and you just need somewhere quiet to wind down. For those who need some time away, some suggested quiet zones on the festival site:

- The Reading Nook, next to the Box Office



Contact Us!

We'd genuinely love your feedback on this guide as it is important for us to learn what works for you and what needs improvement.

If there is anything we can do to make our festival a more inclusive space, please don't hesitate to get in contact.

Or you can contact us at:

08 6184 4905 | gecko@barkinggecko.com.au



Contents

On a mobile device, you can navigate to each event page by clicking on the title!

Koorliny Arts Centre

<u>El Presidente Minisculo</u>	2
<u>Storytelling</u>	3
<u>Crafty Nannas – Textile Hub</u>	4
<u>Kids Market Stalls</u>	5
<u>Imagination Playground</u>	6
<u>Sing Along with Noongar Lullabies</u>	7
<u>Reasons to Stay Inside</u>	8



Koorliny Arts Centre

10 Hutchins Way, Kwinana

Toilets

2 Accessible Toilets available

Best Access Point

From the Koorliny Arts Centre Parking

Drop-off Point

Directly in front of the Arts Centre

Public Transport



> Kwinana Bus Station: Koorliny Arts Centre is a 13 minute walk from the bus station.

> Kwinana Train Station: Buses 541 and 542 leaving from the station will take you nearby the Arts Centre.

> Plan your journey here:

<https://www.transperth.wa.gov.au/Journey-Planner>

Parking

Koorliny Arts Centre Parking.

3 ACROD parking bays

Enter from Sulphur Rd

Overflow parking is available at:

City of Kwinana Administration Parking

3 ACROD parking bays

Enter from Sulphur Rd





El Presidente Minisculo

7+ yrs

By Barking Gecko Arts

Hey kids, if you were in charge of the world for one day, what would your rules be?

Create a flag, write your presidential decree, and then be paraded in your regal chariot to the thunderous and adoring applause of the masses! It's big, bold and beautiful...so it is decreed!

DATES AND TIMES: SAT 20 SEP, 10:00AM – 11:30AM & 12:30PM – 2:00PM

TICKETS: FREE, no bookings required!


























DURATION: Anytime

VENUE: Koorliny Arts Centre, Courtyard

GENRE: Street Theatre

THEMES: Flags, rules, presidency



Lighting & Sound	Participation	Senses, Emotions & Effects	Attention Span	
Total Blackout (Audience) 	Children invited on stage Optional	Distinctive Smells 	Intermission/Breaks 	
Lighting Level Outdoors	Artist goes into audience 	Special effects 	Introduction 	
Flashing Lights 	Manual Activity (e.g. read, draw, sing, paint) Optional writing a decree or drawing a flag using markers, crayons, pencil and paper	Textures Wooden chariot	Children need to sit in one place 	
Loud sounds 	Undertake directed movement 	Balloons 	Appropriate to make noise/move around 	
Repetitive Noises 	Participate in groups/pairs 	Characters express anger Not anger but authority	<div> 5 - YES!</div> <div> 4</div> <div> 3 - MAYBE</div> <div> 2</div> <div> 1 - NO</div>	
Drums 	Carers can support in participation 	Dialogue Driven Minimal		
High Pitched Tones 	Children slower in movement can participate Some physical ability is required to climb onto the chariot. Wheelchair options available.	Props Optional dressups		
Unexpected Sounds 				
Background Music 				

Storytelling

All
Ages

By Glenn Swift

Storyteller and host extraordinaire Glenn Swift invites you to enjoy stories, books and rhymes while you relax in a fort of pillows and beanbags. Catch him roaming around Koorliny Arts Centre, sharing his stories and laughs with the crowd.

DATES AND TIMES: SAT 20 SEP, 10:00 - 12:00PM

TICKETS: FREE, no bookings required!

DURATION: Anytime

VENUE: Koorliny Arts Centre, Reading Nook

GENRE: Literature

THEMES: Reading, Rhymes, Storytelling



Lighting & Sound	Participation	Senses, Emotions & Effects	Attention Span	
Total Blackout (Audience) 	Children invited on stage Audience invited to sing a line of response	Distinctive Smells 	Intermission /Breaks Audience may come and go as they please	
Lighting Level Indoors, well-lit	Artist goes into audience N/A	Special effects 	Introduction Very short, if any	
Flashing Lights 	Manual Activity (e.g. read, draw, sing, paint) Individuals can volunteer to read or sing.	Textures 	Children need to sit in one place 	
Loud sounds There may be loud noises in the audience responses	Undertake directed movement Audience invited to clap. Optional responding with sounds or words	Balloons 	Appropriate to make noise/move around 	
Repetitive Noises 	Participate in groups/pairs 	Characters express anger 	<div> 5 - YES!</div> <div> 4</div> <div> 3 - MAYBE</div> <div> 2 </div> <div> 1 - NO</div>	
Drums 	Carers can support in participation 	Dialogue Driven Mostly. Involves sounds, actions, stories and pictures.		
High Pitched Tones 	Children slower in movement can participate 	Props 		
Unexpected Sounds 				
Background Music 				







Crafty Nannas - Textile Hub

All Ages

By Annick Akanni

Calling all the Kwinana crafters! Do you have some crafty skills to share with young people?

Join artist Annick Akanni to explore the creative world of textiles and fabrics. It's time to get creative with wool thread and fabric.

DATES AND TIMES: SAT 20 SEP, 10:00AM – 12:30PM

TICKETS: FREE, no bookings required!



























DURATION: Anytime, walk-up activity

VENUE: Koorliny Arts Centre, Theatre 2

GENRE: Creative

THEMES: Teddy Bears, Sensory Play, Weaving



Lighting & Sound	Participation	Senses, Emotions & Effects	Attention Span	
Total Blackout (Audience) 	Children invited on stage N/A	Distinctive Smells 	Intermission/Breaks 	
Lighting Level Outdoors, in marquee	Artist goes into audience N/A	Special effects 	Introduction 5 minutes minimum	
Flashing Lights 	Manual Activity (e.g. read, draw, sing, paint) Constructing using scissors, glue, fabric, plastic needles, pom poms and recycled materials. May need to read and/or draw	Textures Fabrics and sensory art materials	Children need to sit in one place 	
Loud sounds 	Undertake directed movement Only when instructed	Balloons 	Appropriate to make noise/move around 	
Repetitive Noises 	Participate in groups/pairs Yes, but can work solo if preferred	Characters express anger 	<div><div> 5 - YES!</div><div> 4</div><div> 3 - MAYBE</div><div> 2</div><div> 1 - NO</div></div> <div></div>	
Drums 	Carers can support in participation 	Dialogue Driven 		
High Pitched Tones 	Children slower in movement can participate 	Props 		
Unexpected Sounds 				
Background Music 				



Kids Market Stalls

By Barking Gecko Arts

Come down and meet some of Kwinana's brilliant young entrepreneurs. On behalf of the clever kids of Kwinana, we invite you to support our artists of the future... and get the jump on your Christmas shopping!

DATES AND TIMES: SAT 20 SEP, 10:00AM - 2:00PM

TICKETS: FREE, no bookings required!




















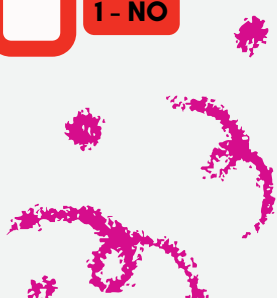







DURATION: Anytime, walk-up activity

VENUE: Koorliny Arts Centre Courtyard

GENRE: Community

THEMES: Entrepreneurship, homemade creations



Lighting & Sound	Participation	Senses, Emotions & Effects	Attention Span
Total Blackout (Audience) 	Children invited on stage N/A	Distinctive Smells Some stalls will be selling candles	Intermission/Breaks 
Lighting Level Outdoor, in marquee	Artist goes into audience N/A	Special effects 	Introduction 
Flashing Lights 	Manual Activity (e.g. read, draw, sing, paint) 	Textures 	Children need to sit in one place 
Loud sounds 	Undertake directed movement 	Balloons 	Appropriate to make noise/move around 
Repetitive Noises 	Participate in groups/pairs 	Characters express anger N/A	<div> 5 - YES!</div> <div> 4</div> <div> 3 - MAYBE</div> <div> 2</div> <div> 1 - NO</div> 
Drums 	Carers can support in participation 	Dialogue Driven N/A	
High Pitched Tones 	Children slower in movement can participate 	Props N/A	
Unexpected Sounds 			
Background Music 			

Imagination Playground

All
Ages

By Barking Gecko Arts

Using giant Imagination Playground Blocks, children can build new worlds. This interactive activity is comprised of a wide variety of loose parts including cubes, bricks, cylinders, cogs and curves for children to move and transform into whatever their heart desires. The Imagination Playground is child-centred and encourages self-expression through play.

DATES AND TIMES: SAT 20 SEP, 10:00AM – 2:00PM

TICKETS: FREE, no bookings required!





























DURATION: Anytime, walk-up activity

VENUE: Koorliny Arts Centre, Courtyard

GENRE: Creative

THEMES: Imagination, building, crafting



Lighting & Sound	Participation	Senses, Emotions & Effects	Attention Span
Total Blackout (Audience) 	Children invited on stage N/A	Distinctive Smells 	Intermission/Breaks 
Lighting Level Outdoors	Artist goes into audience N/A	Special effects 	Introduction 
Flashing Lights 	Manual Activity (e.g. read, draw, sing, paint) Build and stack	Textures 	Children need to sit in one place 
Loud sounds 	Undertake directed movement 	Balloons 	Appropriate to make noise/move around 
Repetitive Noises 	Participate in groups/pairs 	Characters express anger N/A	<div> 5 - YES!</div> <div> 4</div> <div> 3 - MAYBE</div> <div> 2</div> <div> 1 - NO</div> 
Drums 	Carers can support in participation 	Dialogue Driven 	
High Pitched Tones 	Children slower in movement can participate 	Props Giant foam blocks, cogs and noodles	
Unexpected Sounds 			
Background Music 			



Sing ALong with Noongar Lullabies

All Ages

By Community Arts Network (CAN)

Sing in Noongar with musicians Kobi Arthur Morrison and Cyndy Moody! You'll learn a beautiful new Noongar nursery rhyme, complete with actions! Moorditj Kulungar (Strong Kids) was composed especially for pre-school aged children.

DATES AND TIMES: SAT 20 SEP, 12:00PM

TICKETS: FREE, no bookings required!

DURATION: 1-hour

VENUE: Koorliny Arts Centre, Courtyard

GENRE: Music

THEMES: Sing in Noongar, learn new nursery rhyme, complete with actions



Lighting & Sound	Participation	Senses, Emotions & Effects	Attention Span
Total Blackout (Audience) ✗	Children invited on stage ✗	Distinctive Smells ✗	Intermission/Breaks ✗
Lighting Level Outdoors	Artist goes into audience ✗	Special effects ✗	Introduction 5-minute introduction
Flashing Lights ✗	Manual Activity (e.g. read, draw, sing, paint) N/A	Textures ✗	Children need to sit in one place ✗
Loud sounds ✗	Undertake directed movement Singer may ask audience to clap or dance	Balloons ✗	Appropriate to make noise/move around ✓
Repetitive Noises ✗	Participate in groups/pairs ✗	Characters express anger ✗	<div><div>5 - YES!</div><div>4</div><div>3 - MAYBE</div><div>2</div><div>1 - NO</div></div> <div></div>
Drums ✗	Carers can support in participation ✓	Dialogue Driven Singing together	
High Pitched Tones ✗	Children slower in movement can participate ✓	Props ✗	
Unexpected Sounds The performance may feel unexpected			
Background Music ✓			

Image Credit: Cassandra Edwards



Reasons to Stay Inside

7+ yrs

By Barking Gecko Arts

Reasons to Stay Inside tells the story of Pedro and Fiona. Pedro used to run, skateboard, and go to school but now he stays inside building an epic pillow fort called "The Death Star." His best friend Fiona will do whatever it takes to help him find his way back outside.

This beautiful story by Barking Gecko Arts is not to be missed!

DATES AND TIMES: SAT 20 SEP, 1:00PM

TICKETS: Standard \$20, Child \$15

BOOKINGS: <https://koorliny.com.au/events/reasons-to-stay-inside/>























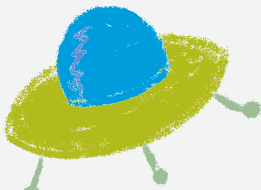






DURATION: 55 minutes

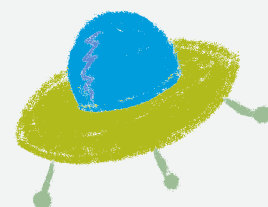
VENUE: Koorliny Arts Centre, Theatre 1

GENRE: Theatre

THEMES: Anxiety, Mental Health, Friendship



Lighting & Sound	Participation	Senses, Emotions & Effects	Attention Span
Total Blackout (Audience) 	Children invited on stage 	Distinctive Smells 	Intermission /Breaks 
Lighting Level Low	Artist goes into audience 	Special effects Smoke Machine	Introduction 
Flashing Lights 	Manual Activity (e.g. read, draw, sing, paint) 	Textures 	Children need to sit in one place 
Loud sounds 	Undertake directed movement 	Balloons 	Appropriate to make noise/move around 
Repetitive Noises 	Participate in groups/pairs 	Characters express anger 	<div> 5 - YES!</div> <div> 4</div> <div> 3 - MAYBE</div> <div> 2</div> <div> 1 - NO</div> <div></div>
Drums 	Carers can support in participation 	Dialogue Driven Mostly	
High Pitched Tones 	Children slower in movement can participate Event is non participatory.	Props Nerf guns and Light Saber toys	
Unexpected Sounds 			
Background Music 			



Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to access and read our Accessibility Guide!

We hope this guide has been informative and helpful in creating a comfortable environment all of our patrons can enjoy.

We are a not-for-profit arts organisation that aims to inspire creativity in young people by crafting world-class, award-winning arts experiences designed to entertain, nourish, and inspire young minds. From captivating theatre performances and vibrant festivals, to dynamic workshops and innovative school programs, we offer a kaleidoscope of arts experiences that blend quality with boundless creativity.

In developing this guide we are hoping to create a model that other events and venues can use to be more welcoming of all abilities. We'd genuinely love your feedback as it is important for us to learn what works for you and what needs improvement.



The Barking Gecko Arts Team

(08) 6184 4905 | gecko@barkinggecko.com.au



