

Childrens Python Care Guide

HABITAT SETUP

Enclosure: A secure, well-ventilated enclosure is essential. Juveniles can be housed in enclosures as small as 45x30x30 cm, while adults require a larger enclosure, approximately 90x45x45 cm. Ensure the enclosure has a tight-fitting lid to prevent escapes.

Substrate: Coconut coir, aspen shavings, or paper towels are excellent choices. Avoid substrates like sand or cedar, which can cause respiratory or skin problems. Provide a layer deep enough to allow the python to burrow slightly if desired.

Decor: Add branches, cork bark, and hides to create a dynamic and enriching environment. Include at least two hides: one on the warm side and one on the cool side of the enclosure. Smooth rocks can assist with shedding, and climbing opportunities encourage activity.

FEEDING

Diet (Rodents): Children's pythons primarily feed on appropriately sized rodents. Start juveniles on pinky mice, progressing to fuzzies, hoppers, and eventually adult mice as they grow. Ensure the prey is no wider than the thickest part of the python's body to prevent regurgitation or injury.

Feeding Schedule

- **Juveniles:** Feed every 5-7 days.
- **Sub-adults:** Feed every 7-10 days.
- **Adults:** Feed every 10-14 days.

Avoid overfeeding, as obesity is a common issue in captivity.

Live vs. Frozen-Thawed

Frozen-thawed prey is recommended to reduce the risk of injury to your python. Always thaw prey fully and warm it to body temperature before feeding.

HANDLING

Children's pythons are generally calm and tolerate handling well. Handle your python 2-3 times a week for short periods to build trust, but avoid handling during shedding or 24-48 hours after feeding. Always support their body fully and avoid sudden movements that could startle them.

HEALTH MONITORING:

A healthy Children's python has clear eyes, smooth, glossy scales, and a strong feeding response. Watch for signs of illness, such as wheezing, lethargy, abnormal stool, or swelling. Respiratory infections and mites are common issues in snakes, so maintain proper hygiene and monitor for symptoms.

LIGHTING AND HEAT

Children's pythons are nocturnal and do not require UVB lighting. However, they need a heat gradient of 28-32°C on the warm side and 24-26°C on the cool side. Use an under-tank heat mat or ceramic heat emitter connected to a thermostat to maintain consistent temperatures. Provide a thermometer to monitor both sides of the enclosure.

TANK MAINTENANCE

Spot-clean the enclosure daily to remove waste and uneaten prey. Perform a full clean every 4-6 weeks, replacing substrate and disinfecting surfaces with a reptile-safe cleaner. Regularly wash water dishes and decor to prevent bacteria buildup.

TEMPERAMENT

Generally clam when handled at young age

HANDLE-ABILITY

Easy - Handle Often

LIFESPAN

15-25 years

MINIMUM TANK SIZE

90x45x60cm

TEMPERATURE RANGE

Warm side: 30-32°C (86-90°F)

Cool side: 24-27°C (75-80°F)

HUMIDITY RANGE

General: 50-60%

During Shedding: 65-70%

UVB

5.0 UVB

TANK MATES

Solitary

FEEDING

Mice -> Baby Rabbits

SAFE FLORA



Childrens Python Care Guide

SHOPPING CART

- UVB 5.0 Bulb & Dome
- Thermometer & Hygrometer
- Heat Bulb/Tube & Housing
- Arid substrate or sand
- 90x45x60cm Enclosure (min)
- Water bowl
- Feeding tongs
- Cork Bark Hide
- Foliage (live or artificial)
- On/Off Timer (Optional)
- Reptile safe disinfectant spray
- Sand sieve (Optional)
- _____



ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENT

Children's pythons thrive in environments that mimic their natural habitats, providing opportunities for climbing, exploring, and hiding. Include sturdy branches, rocks, and artificial caves to encourage natural behaviors. Live or artificial plants can also create visual barriers, reduce stress, and enhance the enclosure's appearance.

Rearranging these elements occasionally can provide novelty and mental stimulation for the python.

SHEDDING CARE

Humidity and Moisture: Shedding is a natural process for Children's pythons and should be smooth and complete. Maintain enclosure humidity at 40-60%, increasing it to 60-70% during shedding periods. Use a hygrometer to monitor humidity levels. Misting the enclosure lightly or adding a humidity box (a hide filled with damp sphagnum moss) can help with shedding.

Substrate Considerations: Choose a substrate that retains some moisture without becoming overly wet, such as coconut coir, cypress mulch, or aspen. Ensure the substrate remains clean and free of mold, as poor hygiene can lead to skin issues.



TANK MAINTENANCE

Spot-clean the enclosure daily to remove waste and uneaten food. Perform a full clean every 4-6 weeks, replacing substrate and disinfecting the enclosure with a reptile-safe cleaner. Ensure water dishes are cleaned and refilled daily with fresh, dechlorinated water.

SIZE & SEX

- **Juvenile:** Juvenile Children's pythons are typically 20-30 cm long and slender. Their smaller size requires smaller prey and extra care when handling to prevent stress or injury.
- **Adult:** Adult Children's pythons grow to 90-120 cm, with some individuals reaching up to 150 cm. They are relatively small compared to other python species, making them an excellent choice for beginner snake keepers.
- **Sexual Dimorphism:** Sexual dimorphism in Children's pythons is minimal. Females tend to be slightly larger and bulkier than males, especially during breeding seasons, but this difference is subtle and often requires experience to identify visually.
- **Growth Rate:** These pythons grow steadily, reaching adult size within 2-3 years, depending on feeding frequency and diet quality. Juveniles grow faster during their first year but slow down as they mature.