

Bindi Irwin's

Wild Life

by Emily Klein

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Chapter 1:

Bindi at the Zoo

Bindi Sue Irwin was born on July 24, 1998. Her parents are Steve and Terri Irwin. Bindi's dad was super excited when she was born. As soon as he saw her, he named her Bindi. The word “bindi” comes from Australian Aboriginals—or native people—and means “young girl.” It was also the name of his favorite croc. Bindi's middle name was inspired by her dad's dog and longtime pal, Sui. Bindi's little brother, Robert, was born when she was five years old.

Bindi lives at Australia Zoo in Beerwah, Queensland, Australia. She was two years old before she realized that she wasn't just visiting the zoo every day—it was her home! Bindi loves hanging with the koalas, wombats,



and her other animal friends. Her favorite is the echidna. The echidna is a super rare animal. It is covered with spines and is one of only two mammals that lay eggs.

Bindi was homeschooled growing up so she could work and travel with her parents. She gave her first animal demonstration—about snakes!—when she was only a toddler. She told *People*, “Living at the zoo, it’s a lot easier to study online because I have all the tools at my fingertips. I can learn from my own surroundings.” Bindi works hard. But she has plenty of fun, too.

Over the years, her birthday parties have ballooned into epic events. Bindi told *Good Day Los Angeles*, “I do have fantastic birthdays at the zoo . . . and kids get in free.” Bindi’s seventeenth birthday had a Hawaiian theme. There were special hula dancers, surfing workshops, a parade, and, of course, cake!

