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# Children's Python

*Antaresia childreni*

## Care Sheet

### Average Size

2 - 3 feet long

### Average Lifespan

20 - 30 years

### Diet

Children's Pythons are strict carnivores. They can eat either frozen or live prey items. Babies will start with new born pinky mice. An adult will eat adult mice to weaned rats. When feeding frozen prey, be sure the prey is thawed thoroughly. When feeding live prey, be sure to monitor the feeding to prevent the prey from attacking the snake.

### Feeding

Feed babies 1 - 2 times a week. At 2 - 3 months of age you can reduce to once weekly. Adults can eat weekly, although some keepers feed every other week. The prey size should equal the largest part of the snake's body in girth.

### Housing

**Habitat** - Children's Pythons come from Northwestern Australia. In the wild they are found hiding under logs, rocks, and in holes. Children's Pythons are best kept alone, although some people keep them in groups. If housed together snakes should be of similar size to avoid injury. Breeders generally keep Children's Pythons in separate enclosures until breeding time. At that point, the breeder will house the snakes together.

**Size** - Children's Pythons are a ground dwelling snake, and their cage should reflect a ground dwelling environment. An adult must have a minimum cage size of 30" Long x 12" Deep x 12" High, although many keepers prefer a larger cage. Babies can start in 10-gallon tanks.

**Substrate** - Shredded aspen is a perfect substrate. Children's Pythons love to burrow. Shredded aspen provides a fluffy substrate easy for burrowing and cleaning. Provide 3-6 inches of substrate.

**Temperature** - Children's Pythons require a basking spot of 80°- 85°F. The cool end of the tank can be as cool as 65°- 70°F. Proper temperature is extremely important with this species. If a Children's Python becomes too cool for an extended period, they will quickly develop respiratory infections.

**Humidity** - Humidity levels should be between 45% - 55%.

**Watering** - Provide fresh drinking water daily. This species will sometimes soak their body in water. Provide a bowl of water large enough so that the snake can fully submerge its body.

**Lighting** - Since this is a nocturnal species, it requires only one light bulb. This is the heat lamp which also emits UVA. There is no current proof that the animal requires UVB light, although some keepers prefer to provide UVB.

**Plant and Fish bulbs are not UVB bulbs.**



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