BLUEY EPISODE GUIDE

BBQ

Grade 1 · Age 6

Episode Name	BBQ
Season & Episode	Season 1, Episode 7
Age Group	Grade 1 (Age 6)
Key Concept	Copying grown-ups isn't shallow — it's how children rehearse for the world they're growing into

ABOUT THIS EPISODE

The Heelers host a family barbecue. While the adults chat and cook, the kids mirror them in the garden with their own version — pretend barbecues, conversations, and most notably, Bingo making a salad with intense concentration and genuine care about which leaves look right.

The adult world and the children's world run in parallel, and the episode asks us to notice how similar they really are.

WHY IT MATTERS (FOR PARENTS)

This is a beautifully simple episode about imitation as learning. Bingo doesn't just pretend to make a salad — she puts genuine thought into selection, preparation, and presentation. She's practising the same skills adults use when they cook. The focus is real, even if the ingredients aren't.

Your six-year-old does this constantly — copying your phone calls, mimicking your routines, playing at being you. This episode validates that impulse and shows that the copying isn't shallow. It's how children rehearse for the world they're growing into. Watching Bingo take her garden salad so seriously is one of the most honest portraits of childhood in the whole series.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (FOR YOUR CHILD)

1	*Bingo was really careful about choosing the right plants for her salad. Why do you think she took it so seriously?*
2	*The kids played barbecue while the adults had a real barbecue. What was the same about both? What was different?*
3	*Do you ever copy things you see grown-ups doing? What's your favourite grown-up thing to pretend?*
4	*Why do you think kids like to play at doing the things adults do?*

AFTER THE EPISODE — ACTIVITIES & EXTENSIONS

Try one of these to keep the learning going:

- Let your child make a real salad — or any simple dish — with genuine responsibility for choosing and arranging the ingredients. Don't fix it. Serve it. Eat it like it was made by a chef.
- Have a 'parallel play' afternoon: you do something real (cook, garden, write, fix something), and your child does their pretend version alongside you. Don't merge the activities — just work in the same space.
- Ask your child: 'What's one thing you'd like to learn to do properly that you've only ever pretended?' Then — if you can — teach them the real version.
- Talk about something you used to pretend as a child that you now do for real. What was the same? What surprised you about the real version?

Tip for parents: The next time your child is playing at something you do — cooking, working, fixing, talking on a pretend phone — pause and watch for a moment before you interrupt. What you'll see is a small person taking your life seriously. That's worth noticing.