

Connecting with your Community

The Festive Season is a great time to introduce the children to different cultural celebrations and traditions from around the world.

Planning experiences and providing resources that encourage an appreciation of diversity, helps the children to achieve Early Years Learning Framework

OUTCOME 2: CHILDREN ARE CONNECTED WITH AND CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR WORLD

Children respond to diversity with respect

Respecting diversity by ensuring activities, experiences and discussions are meaningful and less tokenistic or stereotypical is vital when considering a cultural project.

Research as much as you can. Ask families for information, and contact local community groups. Discussing the importance of embracing different ideas and respecting different views will help the children to practice inclusiveness and have a positive attitude towards cultural differences.

Embedding different cultural practices into your everyday program avoids having the experiences as 'one offs' and makes culture part of the children's lives. Then following up with the children's learning regularly encourages the children to reflect on their thinking and help them to understand their world.

Invite families to share their own holiday traditions. Older children can share what they do, and younger children can share photos. It is important to share your own traditions as well.



The Festive Season is full of celebrations that could be introduced to the children.

- Hanukkah
- St. Nicholas Day
- Las Posadas
- Kwanza
- Yule (Winter Solstice)
- Thanksgiving
- Chinese New Year
- St. Basil's Day

Learning 'Merry Christmas' in different languages helps to appreciate linguistic diversity.

Spain
'Feliz Navidad'

Indonesia
'Selamat Natal'

Japan
'Meri Kurisumasu'

Romania
'Crăciun Fericit'

France
'Joyeux Noël'

Information accessed from <https://www.whychristmas.com/customs/languages.shtml>

Reflecting on the Sense of Belonging and respect for family's beliefs in your service

Is finding out about family's culture and their background part of your enrolment process?

How do you approach a situation where the family's beliefs differ from your own?

Do you look at the religious meanings behind festive holidays?

Why do you start celebrating Christmas when you do?

Cultural competence is much more than awareness of cultural differences. It is the ability to understand, communicate with, and effectively interact with people across cultures.

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