



# Incorporating Holidays from Around the World

When thinking of how to incorporate holiday activities from around the world, or those celebrated within your community of families and participants, consider what is important in children learning about this holiday. A few questions to ask yourself before beginning;

- **Is it developmentally appropriate for those in the group?**
- **Why is it important to specific children and families?**
- **Are the activities meaningful to the children?**
- **Are their needs and interests being met?**
- **Is the activity a valuable use of children's time?**

## TIPS FOR PLANNING ACTIVITIES

### **1 Encourage children to share information and feelings about the holidays they celebrate.**

Have a conversation with the group so that children can take turns sharing. This will allow children to make the distinction between learning about another person's holiday rituals while honoring their own. This helps set the foundation for children to participate as 'guests' in holiday activities that are not a part of their own culture.



### **2 Honor every group represented in the classroom.**

This does not mean that every holiday of every group must be celebrated, or else classrooms may be celebrating all the time! It does mean that once families and programs have decided on what holidays to celebrate, none should be treated as if they are "unusual." Children should recognize that everyone's holidays are culturally significant and meaningful.



### **3 Demonstrate awareness within the classroom environment.**

Holiday activities and how you choose to celebrate should demonstrate the fact that not everyone in the same ethnic group celebrates holidays in the same way. Allow families to provide or display examples of their own unique traditions. Be sure your curriculum shows respect for all customs without highlighting more of one particular group. If children are observing different holidays at the same time, the values and traditions of each child's culture should be acknowledged.



### **4 Involve parents, and don't over-do it.**

Work together with parents to plan strategies for children whose families' beliefs to do permit participation in holiday celebrations. Allow families to take part in creating satisfactory alternatives for the child within the classroom.

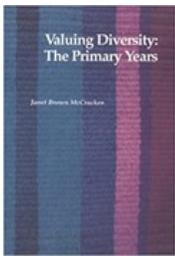
Additionally, focus on celebrating holidays in meaningful ways without spending money. Welcome families to bring in cultural artifacts, or to inform on activities so that the holiday itself is portrayed accurately.





## Additional Resources

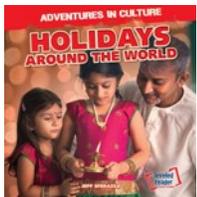
### Books



**Valuing Diversity: The Primary Years.**  
**By J.B. McCracken**

Children who learn, accept, and value human diversity will develop an open, flexible approach to life.

Find it on Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Valuing-Diversity-Primary-Years-Naeyc/dp/0935989552>



**Holidays Around the World**  
**By Jeff Sferazza**

Fascinating readers with the diverse ways people gather for and celebrate holidays throughout the world.

Find it on the Google Play store: <https://play.google.com/store/books/details?id=eFNiDwAAQBAJ>

### For the Classroom

**Teachers Pay Teachers – Cultural Diversity Calendar** (\$5.00 Download)

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Cultural-Diversity-Calendar-2020-2021-Multicultural-Holidays-and-Festivals-4831159>



### Links

**Red Cat Reading - Holidays Around the World (Video)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Sv0ac-W8Vc>

**PBS Kids, Arthur – Arthur Celebrates the Holidays (Interactive Web Page)**

<https://pbskids.org/arthur/holidays>

**Edutopia - Sharing Holiday Traditions in the Classroom**

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/sharing-holiday-traditions-classroom>

**iColorin Colorado! - Culturally Responsive Instruction for Holiday and Religious Celebrations (Bilingual Site)**

<https://www.colorincolorado.org/article/culturally-responsive-instruction-holiday-and-religious-celebrations>

**Scholastic - Teacher Tips: Celebrating Multicultural Holidays in Winter**

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/multicultural-celebrations/>

