

## Fruit Festival in Tanzania with an Early Childhood Group

Sarah Dickson

Dear friends,

I just want to tell you about our last fruit festival at the Hekima Waldorf Kindergarten in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where we have 50 children from 2-6 years.

Our festival is done at the end of January, even though the season starts from December but at this time the school is on holiday. During this season all kinds of seasonal fruits are found, mangoes, pineapple, watermelon, grapes, red plums, apples, peaches, pears, strawberry and avocado. Bananas and passion fruit are always available in all seasons. We created this fruits festival to help the children to learn to appreciate nature and farming, to care and to love the trees. At school they see how it's starting flowers until they give out fruits. In celebration every child brings one kind of fruit he/she likes. We collect and decorate the class together in the morning and some parents are just visiting for a few hours. We do some singing and story. They have time to wash, cut and chop the fruit. They even made some juice and jam. The activity is done for two days.



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*Sarah Dickson lives in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, after growing up further north in Arusha. She has been a kindergarten teacher at the Hekima Waldorf School since 2000 after receiving a diploma in education. Currently she represents East African kindergartens in the East Africa Association and in the IASWECE.*