

Culture in Our Classroom

Purpose: Help children feel seen, build belonging, and support development by reflecting families' cultures, languages, and routines in everyday classroom life.

1) Greeting Choices

What to do: Offer 3–4 ways to greet. Let children choose.

Say: "How would you like to greet today?"

Why it helps: Respects different comfort levels with touch and eye contact.

2) Family Wall / Family Books

What to do: Invite families to share a photo (or drawing) and a short caption.

Caption prompt: "In our family, we..." / "We speak..." / "We celebrate..."

Extension: Make a simple "Our Families" class book.

3) Language Welcome

What to do: Post "Welcome" in the languages represented in your room.

Add: Name pronunciations (staff model correct pronunciation).

Tip: Use children's names as the first "cultural curriculum."

4) Classroom Labels in Home Languages

What to do: Label items in English + home languages.

Start with: Bathroom, sink, chair, table, snack, nap, blocks.

Provider tip: Families can help with accurate spelling.

5) Storytelling Week



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What to do: Families share a short story, song, rhyme, or saying (in-person, audio, or written).
Follow-up question for kids: “What do we notice? What is similar? What is different?”

6) Music & Movement From Home

What to do: Create a rotating playlist from families (kid-safe).
Movement idea: “Show us a dance you do at home.”
Inclusive tip: Offer “watch first” as a valid participation option.

7) Real Tools + Dramatic Play

What to do: Add safe, authentic items connected to daily life (pots, fabrics, menus, calendars, pretend money).
Rotate: Food containers (cleaned), clothing pieces, caregiving items.
Avoid: Costume stereotypes. Choose everyday, respectful materials.

8) Food, Routines, and Comfort

What to do: Learn family routines (sleep, soothing, toileting, meals).
Ask: “What helps your child feel calm and safe?”
Classroom support: Offer multiple calming choices (quiet corner, sensory tools, movement).

9) Community Helpers From Families’ Lives

What to do: Invite families to share work roles and community contributions.
Prompt: “What does your family do to care for others?”
Activity: Draw/write “When I grow up, I want to help by...”

10) Celebrations With Care

What to do: Focus on **meaning** rather than “party days.”
Ask first: “Does your family participate? What would you like us to do/not do?”
Alternative: “Season of Light/Family Traditions” theme instead of a single holiday focus.



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