

Holiday Inclusion Planning Guide

This guide supports early childhood programs in planning holiday activities that are respectful, inclusive, and welcoming to all children and families. Inclusive practices help children feel valued and promote a sense of belonging.

Why Holiday Inclusion Matters

- Families celebrate different holidays or may not celebrate holidays at all
- Inclusive planning respects family beliefs, cultures, and traditions
- Children learn empathy, respect, and appreciation for differences

Planning Inclusive Holiday Activities

- Focus on seasonal themes rather than specific holidays when possible
- Avoid activities that require families to disclose personal beliefs
- Offer multiple ways for children to participate
- Ensure activities are developmentally appropriate and accessible to all children

Working With Families

- Communicate plans in advance and invite family input
- Use inclusive language in newsletters and classroom displays
- Respect family choices about participation in holiday activities
- Provide alternatives for children who opt out of specific activities

Inclusive Classroom Practices

- Use books and materials that represent diverse cultures and traditions
- Avoid assumptions about what children celebrate at home
- Encourage kindness, sharing, and gratitude year-round
- Celebrate similarities and differences in positive ways

Reflection for Educators

- Do classroom activities reflect all children and families?
- Are celebrations focused on learning rather than observance?
- Are families given choice and voice in holiday activities?



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