

# Juneteenth Activity Ideas

## Infants (Birth–12 months)

### Red Sensory Time

- **Materials:** red fabric scraps, red ribbons, red/black picture cards, soft red ball, red cellophane (supervised)
- **Set up:** Place items in a shallow basket on a blanket.
- **Teacher talk:** “We’re looking at red today. Red is a special Juneteenth color.”

### Baby-Friendly Music & Movement

- **Materials:** shakers, scarves, gentle drum
- **Do:** Play upbeat music, rock, sway, bounce, and mirror baby movements.
- **Teacher says:** “Music helps people celebrate and feel joy together.”

### Board-Book Cozy Corner

- **Materials:** diverse board books featuring families, community helpers, and celebrations
- **Do:** Read for 3–5 minutes at a time; name faces and emotions.
- **Teacher talk:** “Families and friends celebrate together.”

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## Young Toddlers (12–24 months)

### Red “Stamp & Dot” Art



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- **Materials:** red washable paint, big paper, sponge stamps or dot markers
- **Do:** Stamp/dot freely.
- **Teacher says:** “You’re making celebration art!”

### Freedom “Walk & Wave” Parade

- **Materials:** red streamers or ribbon wands
- **Do:** Short hallway/room parade with music.
- **Teacher talk:** “We’re marching together—friends and community!”

### Snack Prep: Red Fruit Mix

- **Materials:** strawberries, watermelon, raspberries (cut safely)
  - **Do:** Toddlers drop fruit into bowls.
  - **Teacher talk:** “Thank you for helping. We share food when we celebrate.”
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## Toddlers (2–3 years)

### Community Collage

- **Materials:** magazine photos of diverse people, glue sticks, big paper
- **Do:** Children choose pictures and glue them down.
- **Teacher talk:** “Juneteenth is about people being free and being together. This is our community.”

### “Together We Can” Building Challenge



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- **Materials:** blocks or cardboard boxes
- **Do:** Build “a place for everyone” (a park, a home, a school).
- **Teacher talk:** “Everyone belongs. Everyone matters.”

### Drum Circle (turn-taking + rhythm)

- **Materials:** classroom drums or buckets + sticks
  - **Do:** Copy simple patterns: tap-tap-pause.
  - **Teacher says:** “We listen, take turns, and play together.”
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## For Preschool (3–5 years)

### Story + Discussion

- **Do:** Read a Juneteenth picture book (or tell a short teacher story).
- **Teacher talk script (1 minute):**  
“Juneteenth is a day we remember when freedom finally reached many Black families in Texas on June 19, 1865. People celebrate with music, food, and time together. Freedom means people get treated fairly and can make choices.”

### Flag & Color Symbol Art

- **Materials:** red, white, blue paint/paper; stars stickers; markers
- **Do:** Create “celebration flags” or “freedom stars.”
- **Teacher talk:** “Stars can remind us of hope and new beginnings.”

### “Fairness” Role-Play Cards



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- **Materials:** simple scenario cards (sharing crayons, taking turns, inviting someone to play)
- **Do:** Act out “kind choices.”
- **Teacher talk:** “Freedom goes with fairness, everyone gets a turn and is included.”

### Celebration Recipes

- **Ideas:** red fruit kebabs, cornbread muffins (teacher-prepped), red smoothie cups
  - **Talk:** “Many families celebrate with special foods and red drinks.”
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## Whole-Program Ideas

### Family Photo Wall: “Our Community Celebrates”

- Ask families to send a **photo of their child smiling** or a “family celebration” photo.
- Post with captions: “Our class celebrates together!”

### Juneteenth Art Gallery Walk

- Display children’s art; play music; invite families for 10 minutes at pickup.

### Kindness Chain: “We All Belong”

- Each child adds a paper strip: teacher writes their words (“I can share,” “I can help.”)



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