

# Celebrations Policy



Rituals or traditions contribute to a sense of community and belonging, as do celebrations that are handled sensitively. These can be valuable for children, families and educators. Both the planning and preparation, and the events themselves, can be a satisfying and pleasurable experiences.

## PURPOSE

Incorporating celebrations into children's schools appropriately, can be used to strengthen the partnership with children and families, creating a feeling of belonging and developing a sense of community amongst families, educators and children.

Integrating celebrations delicately and courteously into the schools program is an enriching experience for children, educators and families. Celebrations provide an opportunity for children to develop respect for diverse values and beliefs as they learn about practices which are different to their own.

It is imperative to recognise the array of celebrations, both religious and worldly, that take place through the year in our community and to have an understanding of, and respect for, cultural diversity in our schools.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management and visitors of the school.

## IMPLEMENTATION

### Management/Nominated Supervisor/Certified Supervisor will ensure:

- To incorporate relevant, culturally based experiences and celebrations in the children's program which address different learning opportunities which include: fostering a sense of belonging and inclusions for every child, family and staff member (EYLF, p.7), increasing children's understanding of, and respect for, diversity and differences (EYLF, p.13), Raising children's self-awareness and confidence, providing for children's holistic development and supporting a positive identity for every child and family (EYLF, p.2)
- Religious celebrations such as Christmas and Easter will be recognised within the School and reflected in our programs.
- All cultural celebrations that are significant to our families and relevant to our broader community are implemented within the school
- Families are aware of the Celebration Policy during their orientation process and kept updated throughout the year via correspondence (either newsletter or email).
- Families to discuss cake or other options with educators prior to the celebration and to be made aware of our nut free policy
- Families are reminded of the allergies in the school prior to any celebrations
- Children with special dietary requirements are encouraged to bring in their own treats (that can be frozen) for these occasions.

- Educators are aware and make alternate arrangements if families would prefer that their child does NOT participate in such celebrations.
- If this is the case we will respect the rights and feelings of this child and will provide an alternative experience for them to participate in so that they do not feel that they are being left out.
- The School has an 'Events Calendar' that is used to support such events throughout the year. We ask that families add their celebration to the calendar so Educators can prepare the program
- Encourage families to be involved in the preparation and/or the celebration in the School
- Educators remain current with the professional knowledge and skills that support planning for and engaging in culturally inclusive practice

### Educators will:

- Ensure that each child celebrates his/her birthday after consultation with the parent about the day and food. (Please see Parent Handbook for more information).
- Be aware of cultural tokenism and stereotyping
- Encourage and supporting family members to be involved in sharing their customs and celebrations with your school
- Ensure children have the choices about the celebrations they would like to participate in engaging families to give advice on customs
- Ensure that children have the resources and time necessary to be able to celebrate effectively
- Provide young children and toddlers with materials which reflect a significant event or celebration which they have recently participated in.
- Ensure that families who do not wish to be involved in celebrations have an option to not participate
- Balance family values about receiving gifts and products from their children and Educators values about avoiding product based activities by developing creative and meaningful gifts for families
- Notify the community about the celebration e.g. taking photos to display on the school notice board, or displaying children's artwork and drawings about the celebration
- Provide opportunities for children to participate in 'open ended' celebration activities
- Celebrate traditions and customs relevant to children and community
- Ensure that the same amount of time and energy is dedicated to ALL celebrations
- Invite Educators and families to share their own personal experiences of celebrations
- Ensure resources such as picture story books, images and music are reflective of contemporary celebrations which children can relate to

### Source

- ECA Code of Ethics.
- Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2013).
- Staying healthy in childcare. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. (2013)
- Early Years Learning Framework

<b>Policy Review Date</b>
<b>July 2016 2018</b>