

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Creating authentic celebrations of festivals

Helping children to understand festivals celebrated in their local community or around the world can support their understanding of events that are important to others, their traditions, stories and links to their own lives and experiences.

When celebrating festivals it is important that they are an authentic representation of the festival, so you avoid unintentionally perpetuating stereotypes. Our top tips will help you to reflect on how you can provide festival celebrations that are authentic to children and families.



1. Find out from families which festivals they would like you to celebrate during the year and add these to your annual planning calendar
2. Prepare in advance for festivals by speaking to parents and family members asking for their knowledge and experience about the festival or carry out an internet search to find out more information about the festival
3. Make connections with your local communities or cultural leaders so that you can hear about authentic traditions, meanings and celebration ideas
4. Share your families' experiences of the chosen festival at a staff meeting so all staff share the same understanding of the purpose and traditions of the festival
5. Invite parents and family members into the setting to share their experiences and take part in activities with children
6. Talk to children who celebrate the festival at home and encourage them to lead on ideas for celebrating in the setting
7. Choose developmentally appropriate activities that provide meaningful engagement to the festival for children
8. Ensure children understand why the activities are significant and why they are taking part in them
9. Make links from festival traditions to children's own experiences of family celebrations, for example, preparations for big celebrations (new clothes, decorations etc.), receiving and giving of gifts to others, eating special foods, etc.

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NDNA products to support you with this

- [Fun for All Seasons – publication](#)

Find more resources at www.ndna.org.uk/hub/myndna