

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.

Activity: a rainbow of Pride

June is Pride month, which makes this a good opportunity to celebrate your children's diverse families.

Learning aims

- Personal, social and emotional development – self-esteem, self-confidence
- Recognising similarities and differences
- Tolerance, acceptance, respect, love.



Resources

- Variety of different Pride rainbow flags
- Books reflecting diverse families e.g. *Julián at the wedding* by Jessica Love, *The great big book of families* by Mary Hoffman
- Resources to create rainbow flags, e.g.
 - Rainbow-coloured ready mixed paints, paintbrushes or sponge brushes
 - Strips of paper in rainbow colours (standard paper, crepe paper, tissue paper), glue
 - Mark making resources such as chalks, pastels, bingo dabbers, wax crayons.

Activity outline

1. Share the Pride rainbow flags with the children and find out what they already know. Some children may be aware of the flag from their homes or communities. Discuss different family types such as those with a mother and father, two mums, two dads, single parents and blended families and encourage the children to talk about their families. Note that there is no 'right' or 'wrong' in the way families are formed
2. Discuss the different colours in the flag – as well as naming the colours, try exploring how the colours make the children feel, e.g. yellow makes them feel happy like the summer sun or purple reminds them of their favourite snuggly blanket, etc.
3. Use the following as prompts for further discussions about why Pride is represented by a rainbow:
 - The rainbow flag reminds us that there is no one type of colour that is more important than another – all the colours are needed to create the rainbow
 - Just as rainbows are made of many colours, we have people of different colours and backgrounds

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- Each person is unique – not just hair, eye or skin colour but also what individuals like to play, wear, eat, who they live with, where they live; all these are part of who we are
 - Like people, the rainbow is created by differences. If all the colours were the same, it wouldn't be a beautiful rainbow. Our community is brightened by our differences. Though different, we are all equal, just as each colour has an equal place in the rainbow.
4. Provide a range of resources for children to create their own versions of rainbow flags and display these around the room. While each flag will represent a rainbow, each flag will also reflect the child who created it, celebrating their individuality.

Extension ideas:

- Request family photos from home to celebrate the variety of family types in the setting. Create a book which uses the rainbow flags for each child next to their family photo. Store this in the reading area for children to share and discuss their families with others.