

**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.**

## Top tips: Creating authentic celebrations of festivals

**Helping children to understand festivals celebrated in their local community or the world around them supports their understanding of events and traditions that are important to others.**

When celebrating festivals it is important that they are an authentic representation of the festival, to 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 celebrate and add these to your annual planning calendar
2. Collaborate with your team to discuss upcoming celebrations and festivals, allowing everyone to contribute to the planning process. Use these discussions to support the team's understanding of the purpose and significance of each festival, fostering a shared commitment to accurate, respectful, and inclusive practices
3. Invite parents, carers or local community members into your nursery to either share how they celebrate or to take part in activities with their children. This might include storytelling, traditional crafts or cooking authentic recipes
4. Choose developmentally appropriate activities that provide meaningful engagement to the festival for children. Use stories, role play, or puppet shows to make the learning engaging and meaningful. Talk to children about the festival and invite them to share how they celebrate this at home and encourage them to share ideas for celebrating in your nursery
5. Include authentic resources such as books, music, decorations, and artifacts that are meaningful to the festival
6. Incorporate sensory experiences such as food, music, scents, and textures to immerse children in the cultural aspects of the festival
7. 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.

**And more resources at [www.ndna.org.uk/hub/myndna](http://www.ndna.org.uk/hub/myndna)**