



**Multi-
Cultural
Boxes**

Celebrations

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Celebrations (1 hr 30 mins)

In all cultures, traditional stories are repeated over and over so children can remember the stories and the lessons within the stories.

The repetition of the stories makes it possible for stories to be memorised then passed on through communities, families and on to future generations.

Aim for non-tokenistic ways to celebrate

- Celebrations should be inclusive of everyone, meaningful and discussed throughout all of the year and the program.
- Celebrations should be discussed with families, staff and children and then celebrated in ways that are meaningful to everyone.

What's in the box? (Or what's not in the box?)

You will not find a celebrations box on Christmas or Easter or Chinese New Year or Birthdays.

1. One or 2 boxes could not be shared between hundreds of centres;
2. That would waste the resources for the rest of the year;
3. That could lead to tokenistic use of the resources.

What you will find in each box is a collection of interesting items used for celebrations around the world at any time. This is inclusive of more cultures and believes and will encourage some very interesting conversations and creative planning!

Activity 1 (15 minutes)

Are the following ways of celebrating tokenistic or not inclusive?

1. Hanging a Chinese dragon in the foyer for Chinese New Year

Writing space is available in the handouts. Tokenistic! This celebration needs to be discussed with children and explored in many other meaningful ways.... Chinese culture should be visible at all times in your service.

2. Having Santa visit the Christmas Party

Tokenistic and not inclusive! This celebration needs to be discussed with families and children. Many cultures and religions do not recognise Santa as a part of Christmas.

3. Giving a questionnaire to families asking them how they celebrate the end of year/ holiday season.

Non-tokenistic and inclusive. As your children and families change every year, your celebrations should change too. All families and the community should be consulted to ensure equity and fairness and inclusion.

4. Dot painting on card board cylinders during NAIDOC week.

Tokenistic! Aboriginal culture and Australia's traditional history should be respected and celebrated though learning environments and the program regularly, not just during NAIDOC week.