

YMCA CCRR

Seasonal Resource sheet

WINTER 2023

Ah Winter! Thoughts turn to everything cosy-hot cocoa, snuggling under blankets, and all the upcoming festivals and fun holidays! It's a great time of year to bring celebration and tradition into your centers whether by decorations, playing games, or preparing and serving foods from countries around the world. Winter is clearly a popular time for parties and celebrations, and while some are filled with solemn tradition, others focus on fun and frolic. All pose opportunities for interesting and real-life lessons in geography, culture, history, and religion. What are your views on seasonal celebrations and traditions? The Early Learning Framework discusses this through the lenses of Well-Being and Belonging.



<https://www.learningliftoff.com/9-winter-holidays-around-the-world/>

"Nurturing a sense of well-being and belonging supports children as they learn about and investigate the world around them. This sense is fostered through reciprocal relationships with people and places where each child is valued both as a gift and for their gifts – a feeling of being grounded in their immediate environment, their communities, their culture, and the wider world. Educators create environments in which every child feels confident to achieve their highest potential, and where differences are recognized and celebrated. Each child is valued for their contributions and for the knowledge they can share"

Ask yourself some critically reflective questions:

- How are children's cultures welcomed, valued, and woven into my setting in ways that are transformative?
- How do I include and celebrate the diversity of each child and each family in my program?
- Consider traditions, rituals, or practices that are taken for granted in my program. Which of these may not be inclusive?
- What are differing worldviews of diversity and inclusion?
- How can I or my program express views on inclusion?

(From: Early Learning Framework)



Winter Celebrations:

Hannukkah

For eight days each November or December, a candle is lit in a special candle holder called a menorah. This is done to remember an ancient miracle in which one day's worth of oil burned for eight days in the temple. During Hanukkah, special potato pancakes called latkes are eaten, many songs are shared, and the spinning of a top, called a dreidel, is a game to win chocolate coins, nuts, or raisins.

Little Dreidel

I have a little dreidel
I made it out of clay
And when it's dry and ready
Oh dreidel, I shall play
Oh, dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made you out of clay
And when you're dry and ready
Oh dreidel we shall play
Oh, dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made you out of wood
And when you are all ready
I'll play you when I could
Oh, dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made you out of glass
And when you are all ready
I'll play you on the grass
Oh, dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
I made you out of gold
And when you are all ready
I'll play you in the cold



https://www.chabad.org/multimedia/music_cdo/aid/797123/jewish/Dreidel-Song.htm
<https://www.whatdowedoallday.com/easy-hanukkah-dreidel-craft-kids/>

Winter Solstice

Long ago, people celebrated by lighting bonfires and candles to coax back the sun and welcome the light. The Winter Solstice occurs around December 21 and is the shortest day of the year. People all over the world participate in festivals and celebrations to welcome the return of the light after this darkest day. Within our child care facilities we can incorporate a winter theme by decorating with snowflakes, creating arctic slime, winter sensory bins, and sipping on yummy hot chocolate. The possibilities are endless!

Paper Snowflake



Arctic Slime



Hot Chocolate



Sensory Bins



<https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-3D-Paper-Snowflake>
<https://www.thekitchn.com/how-to-make-3-ingredient-slime-without-borax-245904>
<https://tarasmulticulturaltable.com/ciocolata-calda-italian-hot-chocolate-with-orange-whipped-cream/>
<https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/winter-solstice-activities-kids/>



Winter Celebrations Cont'd:

New Year

There are many ways to celebrate the New Year within a child care setting, that can last through January! Fun glittery playdough, Star Wands, or DIY party hats are easy ways to bring in festive fun!



Glitter Star Wands

Materials:

Cardboard
Dowel rods (we used 6" long sticks)
Glitter
Scissors, cardstock paper, pencil
Mod Podge and craft glue
Ribbon
Pom poms (optional)

Instructions:

Start by making your homemade playdough.

1. Combine the flour, salt, cream of tartar, vegetable oil and liquid (water and/or liquid watercolors) in a saucepan.
2. Stir continuously over medium-low heat. It will seem a bit soupy at first. After a few minutes you will notice it starts to thicken.
3. Once the dough becomes a fairly stiff ball, dump it onto a sheet of wax paper or other safe surface for kneading.
4. When it's cool enough to touch, knead the dough until it's smooth. Now it's time to add the color!
5. Knead your glitter into the dough.

https://www.hellowonderful.co/post/diy-glitter-celebration-star-wands/#_a5y_p=3087325

Early Years Lending Library Add-Ons!



11434 Tree House



16300 Myster Sensory Balls



31127 Winter Playscape



13884 Winter Nins



17555 The Mitten



10295 Arctic Explore

Check out more of what your CCRR Library has to offer by scanning the QR code!

