# 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 reallife 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.

"Nurturing a sense of well-being belonging supports and 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 feeling of being grounded in their immediate environment. communities, culture, and the wider world. Educators create environments 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"

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

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



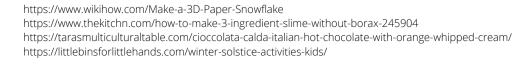
https://www.chabad.org/multimedia/music\_cdo/aid/797123/jewish/Dreidel-Song.htm https://www.whatdowedoallday.com/easy-hanukkah-dreidel-craft-kids/

#### **Winter Solstice**

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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!





## 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!



## Early Years Lending Library Add-Ons!



11434 Tree House

13884 Winter Nins



16300 Myster Sensory Balls



31127 Winter Playscape



10295 Arctic Explore

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







17555 The Mitten

The YMCA Child Care Resource and Referral is funded by the Province of British Columbia