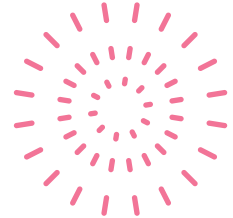
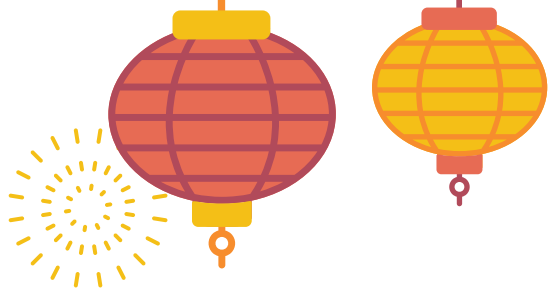
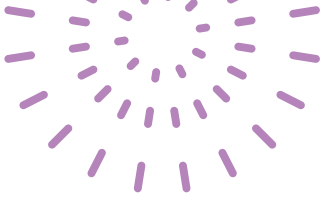




Celebration Month







How to use this resource

This resource is for you and your playgroups to use during a playgroup session or at home. Please remember, it's important to be flexible and respond to the needs and interests to the families. This may mean not all children or families will participate in planned celebration experiences. Give them the option of choosing to participate.

When planning for celebrations at playgroup it is important to discuss with families the different celebrations important to them. This way information can be shared, and an understanding gained about the different ways the same celebrations can be celebrated.

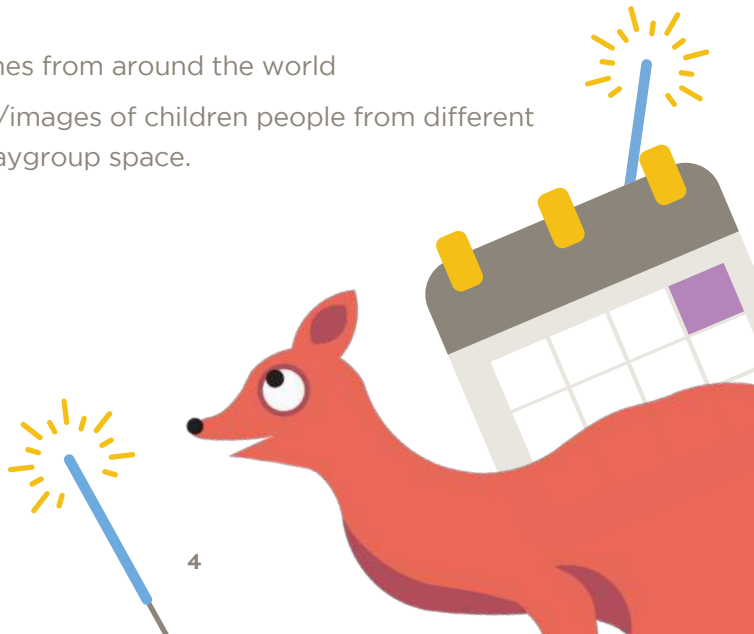
You will be surprised by how children become interested in discovering the different ways other children celebrate special holidays and festivals. These opportunities to discover and learn about different celebrations in their local community will support children's understanding of similarities and differences within their social environment.

Celebrations in everyday life

Take the time to discuss with playgroup families special holidays and festivals and encourage them to contribute and share these special days during playgroup sessions. Be respectful in the way's celebrations are promoted, acknowledged and shared at playgroup to avoid either children or families feeling excluded.

Celebration ideas include:

- sing songs in different languages
- dancing to music from different countries
- learning 'hello' and 'goodbye' in different languages
- cooking foods from around the world
- getting playgroup families to show where they are from on a world map
- playing group games from around the world
- displaying posters/images of children people from different countries in the playgroup space.



Through participating in special celebrations, children can develop skills in:



Understanding symbols, literacy and diversity.



Self-esteem and confidence.



Social interactions.



Decision making.



Develop an appreciation of different celebrations and cultures.

Information sourced from:

ecrh.edu.au/docs/default-source/resources/ipsp/exploring-celebrations-in-children's-services.pdf?sfvrsn=4

aussiechildcarenetwork.com.au/articles/childcare-articles/celebrating-multiculturalism-in-childcare

ecrh.edu.au/docs/default-source/resources/ipsp/celebrations-holidays-and-special-occasions.pdf?sfvrsn=4

Celebrations and Festivals

Throughout the year there are many opportunities for playgroups and families to celebrate. For example:

January

Australia Day (Australia)

February

Waitangi Day (New Zealand)
Shrove Tuesday (first day of Lent; pancakes are traditionally eaten on this day)
Chinese New Year (China)

March

Holi - (India; Hindu Spring Festival)
St Patrick's Day (Ireland)
Harmony Day (Australia; celebrates diversity)

April

Easter (Australia)
Earth Day (worldwide; promotes environmental awareness)
Anzac Day (Australia)

May

Paniryi Greek Festival (Brisbane)
National Sorry Day (Australia)

June

World Environment Day (raises environmental awareness)
International Yoga Day (promotes global health, harmony & peace)

July

NAIDOC Week (Australia)
Independence Day (USA)
Bastille Day (France)

August

Friendship Day (USA)

September

Teacher's Day (India)

October

Diwali Festival (India)
Halloween (Canada, USA, Japan & United Kingdom)

November

Loy Krathong (Thailand; tradition of making buoyant decorations that are then floated on a river)
Remembrance Day (Australia)

December

Giant Lantern Festival (Philippines)
Christmas (Australia)



This months activities:

1. Egg Carton Dragon
2. Monkey Drum
3. Bastille Day Blower
4. The Rainbow Serpent
5. Fireworks Painting
6. Poppy Flowers
7. Giant Lanterns



Activity #1

Egg Carton Dragon (Chinese New Year)

Why?

This activity encourages children to develop awareness of Chinese New Year and how the festival is celebrated. Chinese New Year is often celebrated with dragon dances, lion dances and fireworks.

Instructions

1. Cut the egg cartons into individual sections.
2. Paint the egg carton pieces with the red paint (or the paint colour of choice). Once they are dry, add some gold paint on to the egg carton pieces. Let the paint dry completely.
3. Poke or hole punch a hole on either side of the egg carton pieces.
4. Thread a piece of yarn on to the threading needle. Thread six egg carton pieces together. When you get to the last egg carton piece, tie a knot in the yarn, cut off the excess and tape the end down inside the egg carton.
5. To make colourful scales, glue sequins on to the sides of the carton pieces.
6. Glue small pieces of crumpled up orange and yellow tissue paper on to the head of the dragon to look like it is breathing out fire.
7. Finish the egg carton dragon by gluing on googly eyes and using a black marker to draw on nostrils.

What you need?

- Egg cartons
- Red paint (or colour of your choice)
- Gold paint (optional)
- Paintbrushes
- Yarn
- Threading needle
- Sequins
- Orange and yellow tissue paper
- Googly eyes
- Black marker
- Scissors
- Glue

Tip!

Have the children paint the egg carton pieces the week before, so they will be completely dry when they make the dragon the following week.



Extension of the activity

Children will develop their creative skills, fine/gross motor skills and language skills as they engage in these extension activities:

- Use streamers and ribbons for children to run or dance with while playing Chinese drumming music.
- Make a paper plate dragon mask with curled coloured paper, coloured paper squares and rhinestone stickers (contributed by Karen from Mulligrubs Middle Mount Playgroup).

Information sourced from: iheartcraftythings.com/egg-carton-dragon-craft.html



Activity #2

Monkey Drum (Chinese New Year)

Contributed by Kate from Mons
Mandarin Playgroup.

Why?

The Monkey Drum dates to ancient China. It is used for announcing the arrival of lion dancers and fireworks. This activity encourages children to use their gross motor skills, listen to new words, follow directions, experiment with sound, beat, rhythm and pitch, and develop an awareness of other culture's traditions.

Instructions

1. Paint the backs of the two paper plates.
2. Stick the dowel rod/chopstick/cardboard tube to the inside of the paper plate to form the handle of the Monkey Drum.
3. Make pellets by tying beads or bells on to the end of two pieces of string.
4. Sticky tape the string with the pellets to the inside of one paper plate.
5. Staple two paper plates together (i.e. one with the string and pellets stuck on one side; one paper plate without any additions).
6. Add decorations or stickers to the Monkey Drum.

What you need?

- 2 x paper plates
- Paint (red and yellow are considered good luck)
- Beads or bells (used as pellets)
- String
- Stapler
- Sticky tape
- Dowel rod, chopstick or cardboard tube for the handle
- Stickers or decorations

Tip!

Place Monkey Drum handle between two hands and 'rub' back and forth.



Extension of the activity

- Do a sensory bin.
- Show video/pictures of Chinese New Year Lion dance. This is a traditional dance performed on big occasions for good luck. Lions are considered auspicious representing joy and happiness.

Information sourced from: giftofcuriosity.com/chinese-new-year-drum-craft-for-kids/



Activity #3

Bastille Day Blower (France)

Why?

Bastille Day is celebrated throughout France. It is also celebrated by other countries, especially French-speaking countries and communities.

Instructions

1. Paint the cardboard tube with blue paint.
2. Cut the crepe paper streamers into 20cm lengths (i.e. 2 x red, 2 x white, 2 x blue).
3. Put glue on the top edge of each crepe paper streamer and stick them to the inside of the cardboard tube.
4. Overlap each crepe paper streamer to the inside of the cardboard tube. Use the pattern of red, white, blue.
5. Using scissors, cut each crepe paper streamer up the middle lengthwise until you get to the edge of the cardboard tube. This will create 12 streamer lengths.
6. Hold your Bastille Day blower slightly away from your mouth and blow. The crepe paper streamers will blow out like a blower.

What you need?

- Cardboard tubes
- Blue paint
- Scissors
- Crepe paper streamers (red, white, blue)
- Glue sticks or glue in pots

Tip!

Have the children paint the cardboard tubes the week before, so they will be completely dry when the children make the Bastille blowers the following week.

Extension of the activity

Frère Jacques is a well-known French song you could introduce to children and families at playgroup. The song includes a lot of repetition and simple sentence structure. The following link provides music for the song:

Information sourced from:

ducksters.com/holidays/bastille_day.php
naturalbeachliving.com/4th-of-july-craft-idea-patriotic-kids-blower/



Activity #4

The Rainbow Serpent (NAIDOC Week)

Why?

NAIDOC Week celebrations, held across Australia every July, celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. NAIDOC Week is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

What you need?

- Paper plate
- Googly eyes
- Crayons and scissors
- String
- Red felt

Tip!

Read the Dreamtime story, *The Great Rainbow Serpent*.

Instructions

1. Colour-in the paper plate with different coloured crayons.
2. Add the googly eyes.
3. Cut the paper plate in a circular shape starting on the outside and working into the middle.
4. Add a small piece of red felt for the tongue.

Extension of the activity

- Use an old stocking and stuff it with newspaper and paint it.
- Or make a jumbo snake as a group.

Information sourced from:

naidoc.org.au/about/naidoc-week



Activity #5

Fireworks Painting (Diwali Festival)

Contributed by Karen from Mulligrubs
Middle Mount Playgroup.

Why?

Children of all ages will have fun creating this colourful work of art. The cut, fanned cardboard rolls create the fireworks effect so nicely. Children can choose a range of sizes and colours making their artwork uniquely their own. The activity does not require advanced skills. Learning opportunities include hand-eye coordination, imagination and creativity, fine motor development and language development.

What you need?

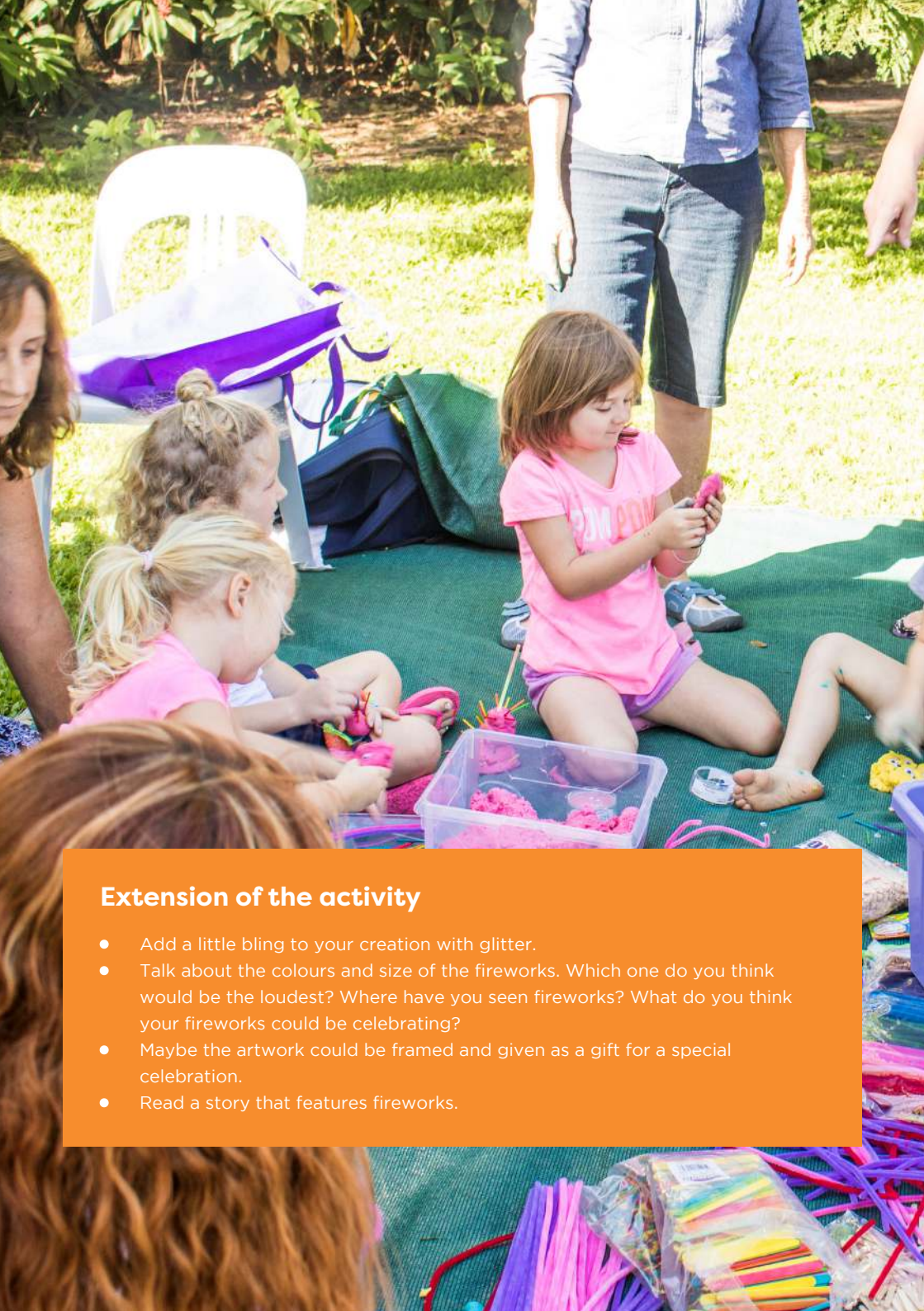
- Poster paint (four colours is perfect)
- Plates to put the paint on
- Large sheet of butcher paper
- Cardboard rolls
- Scissors
- Glitter (optional)

Tip!

To prevent the cardboard fan from going soggy, place in paint just prior to using.

Instructions

1. Cut the cardboard tubes into different lengths fanning them out to create various sized fireworks.
2. Start printing with the largest fireworks first using a kind of bounce and twist motion. Print over the top with the next size fireworks.
3. Try creating fireworks using the smallest fireworks tube then the biggest.
4. Create single fireworks.



Extension of the activity

- Add a little bling to your creation with glitter.
- Talk about the colours and size of the fireworks. Which one do you think would be the loudest? Where have you seen fireworks? What do you think your fireworks could be celebrating?
- Maybe the artwork could be framed and given as a gift for a special celebration.
- Read a story that features fireworks.



Activity #6

Poppy Flowers (Remembrance Day)

Why?

Remembrance Day in Australia is dedicated to Australians who died as a result of war, particularly from World War I onwards. A minute of silence is dedicated to the deceased, especially for soldiers who died fighting to protect the nation. Remembrance Day is observed every November 11. Red poppies are worn on blazers, shirts, jumpers and other items of clothing on Remembrance Day to remember those who died during a war.

What you need?

- Red cupcake liners
- Green drinking straws
- Black paint
- Sticky tape

Tip!

You can place poppies into a container or vase to create a flower arrangement.

Instructions

1. Take a red cupcake liner and a green drinking straw, tape the green drinking straw to the back of the red cupcake liner.
2. Put a little black paint on to a plate.
3. Let the children dip their finger in the black paint.
4. Then place their finger into the middle of the cupcake liner.
5. Leave until dry.

Information sourced from:

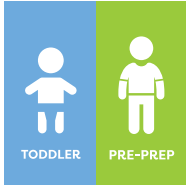
timeanddate.com/holidays/australia/remembrance-day
makeandtakes.com/poppy-flower-craft



Extension of the activity

As children do these activities, they will be developing a range of developmental skills such as practising fine motor skills, developing colour recognition, number awareness and extending vocabulary.

- Get children to crumple up red and black tissue paper into balls and then glue onto a poppy outline. Place the black tissue paper balls in the centre with the red tissue paper balls around the outside.
- Cut paper plates into a poppy shape and have children paint them red and when dry glue black squares of paper into the centre.



Activity #7

Giant Lanterns (Giant Lantern Festival)

Why?

The Giant Lantern Festival is an annual festival held in December in the Philippines. The festival features a competition of giant lanterns. As the children make their lanterns, they will be developing a range of developmental skills such as practising fine motor skills, decision making skills, planning and design skills.

What you need?

- Large clear plastic tumblers
- PVA glue
- Coloured tissue paper cut into different shapes
- Hole punch or sharp scissors
- Coloured pipe cleaners
- Battery tea lights

Instructions

1. Use the hole punch or scissors to make a hole either side of the clear plastic tumbler.
2. Thread the pipe cleaner through the holes to make a handle.
3. Have the children glue on their choice of cut up tissue paper all over their clear plastic tumbler.
4. When lantern is dry, add the battery tea light.

Tip!

You can paint the finished lantern with clear drying glue to make sure all the tissue paper pieces are stuck down. It also gives the lantern a shiny finished look.

Information sourced from:

craftingconnections.net/the-blog/glowing-lantern-craft-10-minute-project/#.W-Dwa5MzY2w



Extension of the activity

- Use a square of clear contact for children to stick their colour tissue paper on. Then place a second piece of clear contact over the first covered with tissue paper. Fold into a lantern shape and add a paper strip for a handle.
- Make paper lanterns from coloured A4 paper.

