



Celebrations Policy

Children attending our preschools come from a diverse range of home environments. There are differences in cultures, beliefs, religions, languages, lifestyles and family circumstances (single parent families, two parent families and extended families). We recognize and value the diversity that exists. When it comes to celebrations, there are many differences between families. It is the aim of this Association to make celebrations meaningful to children, whilst respecting the opinions and beliefs of all of our families.

Family Involvement

Parents will be surveyed to determine which events are traditionally celebrated in their own families, and which events they believe should be celebrated at preschool. Families will be encouraged to share their ideas and customs as a means of promoting awareness among the children that there *are* differences. In celebrating cultural festivals, *differences* will be acknowledged, and promoted as something to be valued and respected. Staff will consult families with cultural differences in regards to celebration that are not part of their traditional family celebrations.

Preparing the Environment

Staff will incorporate celebrations into the program by providing resources that are both developmentally appropriate and meaningful to the child. The following are common celebrations that occur during the year:

Birthdays

For most families, birthdays are a time of celebration – a time to sing “Happy Birthday” and a time to share a cake with friends. If parents wish, they may provide a cake to be shared at preschool.

Some families do not celebrate birthdays, and may request that their children not participate in any birthday celebrations at preschool. In such cases, the staff will discuss what provision can be made for the child.

Christmas and Easter

In our society Christmas and Easter are celebrated in many different ways – and not celebrated at all by some families. In planning experiences for children, staff will be considerate of all the families within classroom groups. Rather than impose Christmas and Easter activities on the children, the staff will continue to offer a range of materials and activities. The staff will take the lead of the child in discussing symbols of these times; however, staff will not promote their own religions.

Mother’s and Father’s Day

In celebrating these occasions, we need to take into account the “diversity of family structures within the community”. Dau & Jones, 2004.



Community and Indigenous Celebrations

We acknowledge the diversity of the Australian community and its days of importance, including indigenous days of significance.

Further reading:

- 1) Queanbeyan and District Preschool Association, *Anti-Bias Policy*.
- 2) Creaser & E.Dau. *Who's in Charge of Celebrations?* 1994.
- 3) E. Dau & K. Jones, *Revisiting Celebrations with Young Children*, 2004.



PARENT SURVEY

CELEBRATIONS

Children attending our preschools come from a diverse range of home environments. There are differences in cultures, beliefs, religions, languages, lifestyles and family circumstances (single parent families, two parent families, and extended families).

We recognize and value the diversity that exists.

When it comes to celebrations, there are many differences between families. Some families celebrate birthdays, others do not. Some families celebrate a traditional Christian Easter, others do not.

What is the role of the preschool in all this? How can we make celebrations meaningful to children, whilst respecting the opinions and beliefs of all of our families?

We would appreciate your comments as we continue to develop and review our policy.

What does your family celebrate? (Please tick)	How does your family celebrate?	Should it be celebrated at preschool?
Christmas		
Easter		
Birthdays		
Mother's Day		



QUEANBEYAN & DISTRICT PRESCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Father's Day		
Other (please list)		

Please return your comments with your enrolment information

Thank you