

5 ways to think about embedded culture

When looking at ways to embed culture in the service this should be done in line with your philosophy, the NQS, and the cultures in your context.



Flags and nationality are different to culture

It is important to recognise the difference between cultural identity, which is related to customs and beliefs of a group of people, and nationality which is about country of birth. Focusing on flags and nationality may not align with the cultural identity of the families, children and educators.



Make all cultures visible at all times

Avoid going over the top with cultural representation during events, as this does not create a sense of belonging for all other cultures who are not being represented. Also only focusing on cultures when there are events means that they are seen as tokenistic, instead of embedded.



Choose appropriate, child-focused events

When considering which cultural events to do within the service think about whether they are age appropriate for the children, and can provide opportunities for the children to have a voice, instead of being adult-directed. This could be through open-ended play instead of structured experiences.



Explore different cultural experiences

There seems to be a trend to do craft when it comes to cultural experiences which may make the event visible in displays and documentation often does not teach the children about the culture. Instead consider songs, dances, games, loose parts, cooking and other meaningful experiences.



Reflect on your cultural practices

Consider what culture means within the service and how you show this. Families may have their own values and practices based on their traditions outside of their national cultural transitions. E.g. being outdoorsy, sporty or book lovers. How are these communicated and embedded?