

Reflecting on culture



How do you know family culture?

Having a box on the enrolment form for nationality does not equate to knowing about families' culture. Nor does asking what celebrations they take part in. Culture is more than a celebration and a country of origin, it is what makes you who you are and can be quite complex.



How do you celebrate family culture?

Once you find out what is important to families in their culture you then need to find ways to celebrate and embrace this through services practices, not just calendar events. For example a family culture might be sports and then this can be included through more focus on physical activities.



Do you focus on adult-directed experiences?

A lot of cultural experiences in services revolve around structured craft where the educator decides on the project and then instructs children on how to complete each step. This rarely, if ever, includes any sort of learning about the culture and is more about following instructions.



Are you building cultural knowledge for children?

Children should understand about culture being what is of value to people and understanding that there are many diverse ways to approach culture. Seeing differences as a way of life helps children be more accepting and supporting of different cultures they come across.



How do you embed culture outside events?

Cultures are not only present in people's lives one day or week of the year, they are important all of the time. Finding a way to support cultural inclusion across the year helps children see their self-identity represented and ensure that meaningful approaches are taken.