

Cultural awareness and inclusion activities for children and families

Purpose: To foster cultural awareness and Christian values in culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) community play groups as well as families at corps.

Multigenerational Family Resource is a resource specially crafted for CaLD community play groups and families. This resource aims to promote cultural awareness, incorporate Christian values, and engage playful learning to create a harmonious and enriching environment for children and communities from diverse backgrounds.

Our aim is to create environments where everyone can grow together in unity and acceptance.

Who is it for? Children, families and people of all generations and cultural backgrounds.

Where can I use the activities? They can be used in a range of settings including playgroups, kids clubs, worship services and at home.

Christian Values Integration

Storytime inclusions:

- Read short Christian stories or parables that emphasise love, kindness, and acceptance.
- Ask some reflection questions and allow everyone to wonder together about how these values can be practised in our lives.

Corps family tree:

- Take photos of the families and individuals in your corps and create a corps family tree. Add a picture of your church.
- Add a world map and invite everyone to place stars on the map, representing their country of origin.

Prayer moments:

- Ask everyone to stand in a circle and take turns to say their name and the culture or cultures that they identify with.
- Include short prayers that reflect unity and appreciation for diversity.
- Invite people to pray in their first language.
- Set up a prayer wall. Make cards available for everyone to use to draw pictures or write words that represent their prayers. Remind everyone that God understands every language and invite them to use whatever language they are most comfortable with.
- Pray for harmony.
- Encourage children to share prayers or thoughts about what makes each person special and unique.

Cultural Awareness Activities

- Select multicultural storybooks that highlight different cultures, traditions, and languages. [Appendix for examples](#).
- Create a video at your corps. Ask people to say 'hello' or 'welcome' in their first language. Include people from different generations and cultures.
- Encourage parents to share stories from their own cultural backgrounds with their children and with the group.
- Organise craft activities that reflect diverse cultural art forms, such as making Chinese lanterns, African bead jewellery, or Indian rangoli. Invite people from all generations to participate.
- Create a language corner with basic words and phrases from various languages spoken within the community.
- Introduce songs or rhymes in different languages.
- Include a simple Acknowledgement of Country at the beginning of your time together. [See example](#).

Interactive Learning Adventures

National Dress Day:

- Encourage everyone to wear their traditional cultural clothing.
- Make space for everyone to share about the importance of their cultural clothing.

Food Adventure Day:

- Organise a "food adventure" where children can sample snacks from various cultures.
- Discuss the importance of trying new things and appreciating different tastes. "Don't yuck someone's yum!"
- Note: take extra care to make everyone aware of food allergies and sensitivities.

Music and dance:

- Play music and songs from a variety of cultures.
- Teach simple dance steps or movements inspired by different cultural traditions.
- Provide instruments from different cultures for everyone to play.

Appendix

Multicultural Storybooks

[I love Chinese New Year](#), 2022, by Eva Wong Nava.

[Colour and me!](#), 2022, by Michaela Dias-Hayes.

[Hats of faith](#), 2017, by Medeia Cohan-Petrolino.

[Faruq and the wiri wiri](#), 2023, by Sophia Payne.

[Not now Noor!](#), 2023, Farhana Islam.

[The Katha Chest](#), 2021, Radhia Chowdhury.

[The neighbourhood surprise](#), 2021, Sarah van Dongen.

[Last stop on market street](#), 2017, Matt de la Pena.

[Sleep well Siba and Saba](#), 2019, Nansubuga Nagadya Isdahl.