

Warradale Community Children's Centre acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land we live on today and we pay our respects to the Aboriginal and Torrens Strait Islander People past, present and emerging.



Celebrations Policy

National Quality Standard (NQS)

Quality Area 1: Educational program and practice

1.1.1	Approved learning framework	Curriculum decision making contributes to each child's learning and development outcomes in relation to their identity, connection with community, wellbeing, confidence as learners and effectiveness as communicators.
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Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety

2.1	Health	Each child's health and physical activity is supported and promoted.
2.1.3	Healthy Lifestyles	Healthy eating and physical activity are promoted and appropriate for each child.

Quality Area 6: Collaborative partnerships

6.1.2	Parent views are respected	The expertise, culture, values and beliefs of families are respected, and families share in decision-making about their child's learning and wellbeing
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Aim

To ensure we are providing an inclusive program and environment, it is imperative to recognise the array of celebrations, both religious and worldly, that take place throughout the year in our community and to understand, and have respect for, cultural diversity in our Centres.

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PURPOSE

Incorporating celebrations into children's services appropriately, can be used to strengthen the partnership with children and families, creating a feeling of belonging and developing a sense of community amongst families, Educators and children.

Celebrations provide an opportunity for children to develop respect for diverse values and beliefs as they learn about practices which are different to their own.

IMPLEMENTATION

Leadership will ensure:

- Religious celebrations such as Christmas and Easter are recognised within the Centre and reflected in our programs.
- All cultural celebrations that are significant to our families and relevant to our broader community are implemented within the service.
- Families are aware of the Celebration Policy during their orientation process and kept updated throughout the year via centre correspondence.
- Educators are aware and make alternate arrangements if families would prefer that their child does NOT participate in such celebrations.
- Educators remain current with the professional knowledge and skills that support planning for and engaging in culturally inclusive practice.
- Safety issues are taken into account prior to the implementation of celebratory experiences.
- Our healthy eating policies are reflected when planning for celebrations.

Educators will:

- To incorporate relevant, culturally based experiences and celebrations within the children's program which address different learning opportunities, including: fostering a sense of belonging and inclusions for every child, family and staff member (EYLF, p.7), increasing children's understanding of, and respect for, diversity and differences (EYLF, p.13), raising children's self-awareness and

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confidence, providing for children's holistic development and supporting a positive identity for every child and family (EYLF, p.2).

- Seek approval from the Director prior to any celebrations where food is provided to children.
- Ensure the use of candles is carried out with the children's safety in mind and fully supervised. A full risk assessment will be submitted to the Director prior to such celebrations.
- Inform the families about the celebration through Storypark.
- Be aware of cultural tokenism and stereotyping.
- Encourage and support family members to be involved in sharing their customs and celebrations with our Centre.
- Ensure children have the agency to make choices about the celebrations they would like to participate in, engaging families to give advice on customs.
- Ensure that children have the resources and time necessary to be able to celebrate effectively.
- Provide young children and toddlers with materials that reflect a significant event or celebration, which they have recently participated.
- Ensure that families who do not wish to be involved in celebrations have an option to not participate.
- Balance family values about receiving gifts and products from their children and Educator's values about avoiding product-based activities by developing creative and meaningful gifts for families.
- Notify the community about the celebration e.g. taking photos to display on the Centre notice board or displaying children's artwork and drawings about the celebration.
- Provide opportunities for children to participate in 'open ended' celebration experiences.
- Provide a flexible program that enables children to have agency about the experiences which they participate in.
- Celebrate traditions and customs relevant to children and community.
- Ensure that the same amount of time and energy is dedicated to ALL celebrations.
- Invite Educators and families to share their own personal experiences of celebrations.

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- Ensure resources such as picture story-books, images and music are reflective of contemporary celebrations which children can relate.
- Be respectful of all religions and cultural backgrounds.

Source

- ECA Code of Ethics.
- Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2013).
- Guide to the National Quality Standard.
- Staying healthy in childcare. 5th Edition. (2013)
- Early Years Learning Framework
- Revised National Quality Standards

Record of Policy Adoption and Amendment:

Version	Date	Details	Author	Next Review Date
1.0	21.5.18	Policy developed	Trish Cook	July 2021
1.1	19.5.21	No changes made	Lori Hay Dian Farandapluka	May 2023
1.2	1.5.23	Inform families through Storypark has been added.	Poornima Radhakrishnan	31.12.23