

***Rationale/Aim:***

Celebrations are an integral part of life. It is important to acknowledge a range of celebrations that take place within our local and the broader community. Experiencing celebrations allows the child to develop an understanding of cultural diversity, which promotes respect for cultural differences. Celebrations also allow the child to experience the fantasy which some of these occasions create.

Relevant Legislation/Related Documents/References:

- Education & Care Services National Regulations 2014
- National Quality Standard, Element 1.1 & 1.2.
- Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010

Procedures/Strategies:

National Celebrations: Anzac Day and Australia Day can develop knowledge and pride in the country in which we live.

Cultural Celebrations: Many of the preschool families identify as Aboriginal, which reflects the makeup of our local community. We therefore enjoy celebrating many Indigenous events including NAIDOC Week and NAICD. The preschool also acknowledges celebrations from other cultures which we do not frequently encounter locally such as Chinese New Year.

Family Celebrations: Special days such as Mother's Day and Father's Day will be recognised.

Religious Festivals: The Christian celebrations of Christmas and Easter are recognised within the preschool. The programme also recognises festivals such as Hanukkah, from other religions.

Birthdays: If a child has a birthday on or near their pre-school day they are most welcome to bring cake to share with their friends. If cakes are store bought please bring in the original packaging with the list of ingredients attached. If homemade please provide a list of ingredients.

Cupcakes are recommended so that each child may be given an individual cake. If a full cake rather than cupcakes are brought, it will be cut into pieces to allow each child one slice.

The birthday child will only have candles on their cupcake or slice of cake. The use of the candles will be carried out with the children's safety in mind and will be fully supervised by a child care worker.

Parents/carers are required to inform the service, on the enrolment form, if the child has any allergies. If a child has a food allergy which does not allow them to eat birthday cake, then the parent/carer will be asked to provide cupcakes which the child can eat. These will be labelled with the child's name and kept in the freezer so that they are on hand when needed.

The Preschool realises that not all families celebrate the above mentioned and respect this, ensuring that we cater for this choice. If families prefer that their child NOT participate in any of these celebrations, and they let us know, staff will make alternate arrangements. The workers will respect the rights and feelings of the child, providing an alternate experience for them to participate in so that they do not feel left out.

Feedback from families is encouraged so that the preschool may learn about and celebrate the cultural and religious beliefs and values of all children and families. If families would like to be involved in preparation for/celebration of events within the service this would not only be encouraged but also greatly appreciated. The preschool staff maintain a calendar which allows planning and support for the celebration of events during the year. Families are invited to add to this calendar.

Evaluation: Children and workers are experiencing a wide range of celebrations. The preschool is seen to embrace and respect diversity.

Endorsement:

Policy signed:

Date:

Name:

Position:

Review:

Review date: April 2018