Family Engagement Activities and Resources for Child Care Providers

**Celebrations & Festivals**

- Family Day/Night celebrating diverse cultures.
- Share a list of local cultural events.
- Acknowledge cultural holidays celebrated throughout the year.
- Host a cultural fashion show where children and families can wear traditional clothing from their cultures.
- Organize a cultural field trip to a museum or cultural center in the community.
- Host a family game night where families can play traditional games from different cultures.
- Organize a cultural scavenger hunt where children and families can learn about different cultural landmarks and traditions in the community.
- Invite families to share traditional holiday stories with the children.
- Create a family photo album featuring photos from different cultural celebrations.
- Host a family movie night featuring films from different cultures.
- Celebrate different cultural dress days where families and children can dress up in traditional clothing.
- Create a cultural calendar featuring important holidays and celebrations from different cultures.

**Food**

- Share family recipes.
- Create a recipe book with contributions from families that includes traditional family recipes.
- Host a potluck dinner where families bring dishes from their cultural heritage.
- Organize a cultural day where families can share their traditions through performances, food and crafts.

**Resources**

- Brain Building Tips for Mealtime
- Mealtime Activities: Brain-Building Challenge
- Food and Play Tip Set

**Music & Dance**

- Create a shared music playlist that families can contribute to.
- Create a playlist of music from different cultures for children to listen to during nap time or quiet time.
- Organize a dance party where families can teach and learn traditional dances from different cultures.
- Host a family singalong featuring traditional songs from different cultures.
- Invite families to share traditional instruments from their culture with the children.
- Host a family karaoke night featuring songs from different cultures.
- Invite families to share traditional lullabies from their culture with the children.
- Host a music concert where families can perform and share their favorite songs.

**Resources**

- Growing Young Brains with Music & Dance
- Early Music Experience
Reading & Storytelling

• Invite families to share their favorite childhood stories or folktales.
• Read children's books that feature diverse characters and cultures.
• Create a multicultural book club for families to read and discuss books from different cultures.
• Host a family storytelling night where children and parents can share stories from their cultural backgrounds.
• Create a book swap program where families can share their favorite books with each other.
• Create bookmarks with families.
• Create a lending library with a variety of books featuring different cultures.

Languages

• Learn to say Hi and Bye in different languages.
• Invite families to teach children basic phrases and words in different languages.
• Create a language learning corner with books, menus, mail, letters, greeting cards and other resources in different languages.
• Organize a language exchange program where families can practice speaking different languages together.
• Invite families to read books in their native language to the children.
• Host a family poetry night where families can share their favorite poems and rhymes.

Resources

• Celebrating Cultures and Traditions through Books
• GROWING YOUNG BRAINS: Building a Foundation for Reading
• The Reading Challenge
• Literacy Tip Set
• Language Development: From Listening to Speaking
• Foundations of Literacy
• Reading Your Way to a Culturally Responsive Classroom

Discussing Race & Promoting Equity

Resources

• Promote Equity in Child Care through Quality Interactions
• Talking About Race with Young Children
• Race Today: What Kids Know as They Grow
• “Racing” Towards Equality: Why Talking to Your Kids About Race Is Good for Everyone
• Moving Beyond Anti-Bias Activities: Supporting the Development of Anti-Bias Practices

Arts & Crafts

• Paint a self-portrait: Children can use paint and paper to create a self-portrait that celebrates their unique qualities and identity.
• Create a family tree: Use construction paper, markers, and photos to make a family tree to help children learn about their family history and heritage.
• Create a memory book: Use a scrapbook or journal to document family traditions, holidays and special memories.
• Host an arts and crafts day where families can create traditional crafts from their cultural backgrounds.
• Create a multicultural art exhibit with artwork from children and families.
• Create a cultural garden where children can learn about plants and herbs from different cultures.
• Create a family memory box featuring mementos and artifacts from different cultural celebrations.

Resources

• Bilingual Language Development
• Many Languages, One Classroom: Supporting Children in Superdiverse Settings

Visit GrowYoungBrains.org for information on brain building resources for child care programs.