

CELEBRATIONS

PURPOSE

This policy will provide guidelines for staff and parents to ensure they are aware of the content of the sessions around the various celebrations throughout the year. These celebrations include (but are not limited to):

- Christmas & Easter (from a Western Christian perspective)
- Mothers/Fathers Day
- Birthdays

POLICY STATEMENT

1. VALUES

Bendigo Pre-School is committed to:

- supporting each child to achieve learning outcomes consistent with the national *Early Years Learning Framework* and/or the *Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework* (refer to *Sources*)
- providing an educational program where children can learn through play and are supported to make decisions, problem-solve and build relationships with others
- creating an environment that supports, reflects and promotes equitable and inclusive behaviours and practices
- involving families in the development and review of educational program and practice

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to the Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, Certified Supervisor, educators, and parents/guardians who wish to understand what may be included as part of session plans around these times.

3. BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION

Background

Bendigo Pre-School acknowledge and appreciate the diversity in cultures and related celebrations. As part of our Australian culture, Bendigo Preschool recognises that Christmas & Easter are widely celebrated. Bendigo Pre-school children & staff will celebrate both Christmas and Easter from a Western Christian perspective. Whilst acknowledging the right of families with differing cultural beliefs to choose not to be involved in these cultural experiences, or, as much as is possible, for staff to provide alternative experiences for the celebration craft activities for each event.

4. DEFINITIONS

Celebrations – Include (but are not limited to) Mother's Day, Father's Day, Easter, Christmas and birthdays.

Western Christian Celebrations – Easter & Christmas will be celebrated following the Western Christian perspective. This may include (but is not limited to the following):

Easter – The resurrection story

Christmas – The nativity scene will feature in our end of year concert

The Easter Bunny and Santa may also be discussed/features as part of the sessions.

Birthdays – Children will participate in singing happy birthday for the child whom is celebrating, the child who is celebrating will then blow out a candle on the toy birthday cake. Children will not provide sweet gifts such as lollipops, chocolate frogs or cupcakes in celebration of their birthday, a small toy or pencil etc is acceptable.

5. SOURCES AND RELATED POLICIES

- Nutrition, Oral Health and Active Play Policy

PROCEDURES

The Approved Provider is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the Nominated Supervisor, Certified Supervisors and other educators have clear guidelines around the content that can/cannot be included as part of the sessions.
- Ensuring that the Nominated Supervisor, Certified Supervisors and other educators have clear guidelines around procedures if families do not want their children taking part in celebration activities

The Nominated Supervisor is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the educational program is displayed clearly at the preschool (in the bathroom area), and that the celebration sessions are included in this educational program.
- Ensuring that parents/guardians are informed of the PreSchools policy on enrolment, and have the ability to further discuss this with Certified Supervisors and Other Educators if required.
- If a parent/guardian objects to their child taking part in one (or more) of the celebration sessions, then alternative arrangements must be made for that child (ie. Other activities away from the remaining group, early collection/late drop off etc).

Certified Supervisors and other educators are responsible for:

- Ensuring that the educational program is displayed clearly at the preschool (in the bathroom area), and that the celebration sessions are included in this educational program.
- Ensuring that parents/guardians are informed of the Pre-Schools policy on enrolment, and have the ability to further discuss this with Certified Supervisors and Other Educators if required.
- If a parent/guardian objects to their child taking part in one (or more) of the celebration sessions, then alternative arrangements must be made for that child (ie. Other activities away from the remaining group, early collection/late drop off etc).

Parents/guardians are responsible for:

- Reading and understanding this Celebrations policy and if they require any clarification, discuss with their child's Certified Supervisor upon enrolment.

- Check the Educational Program each week in the bathroom upon delivering or collecting their child from the Pre-school
- Discuss any concerns with the Certified Supervisor either in person or by utilising the feedback book.

EVALUATION

This is the process of actively monitoring and reviewing the policy to ensure it has achieved its values and purposes. A date for a formal review should be set and documented in each policy. If circumstances change e.g. new legislation is introduced, changes occur in the service environment etc., the review might need to be undertaken at an earlier date.

Evaluation involves:

- seeking feedback from educators, staff, parents/guardians, children, management and all affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness. This can be done via surveys, questionnaires and formal or informal interviews with stakeholders
- monitoring implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to the policy and procedures
- keeping up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice
- observing changes to the service environment e.g. increased/decreased enrolments
- revising the policy and procedures in light of the above
- notifying parents/guardians at least 14 days before making any changes to the policy or its procedures (this is a requirement under Regulation 172 of the National Regulations for policies mandated by law and would be considered Best Practice for all service policies and procedures).

ATTACHMENTS

List all attachments included in this policy.

AUTHORISATION

The policy was adopted by the Approved Provider of Bendigo Preschool on **10/02/2020**.

REVIEW DATE: March 2022