



Embracing Home Culture In The Classroom



MESSAGE FROM DIANE DALEY, CEO

Warm greetings to you!

The jubilant music of birdsong at dawn. The sun rises earlier each morning. Warm breezes. All signs that Spring – the season of rebirth and renewal – is well underway.

At Family Day, no matter what the season, we focus on families.

One of our overarching goals is to forge strong, trusting relationships with every family we serve. We are always looking for ways to build and strengthen our connection with you.

Collaborating with families is also essential for supporting cultural awareness, which strengthens those connections and nurtures a child's identity in the classroom.

We embrace awareness, understanding and respect for all cultures, and we are committed to equipping every team member with the knowledge and skills they need to effectively engage with every child.

By fostering a diverse, inclusive and culturally meaningful learning environment, we can help prepare our children for an inclusive society where everyone feels a strong sense of belonging by helping them discover and develop lifelong skills in acceptance and understanding.

Engaging with our community is the cornerstone of cultural awareness and appreciation. We invite you, fellow parents, family members and neighbours to share stories, celebrate cultural traditions and participate in activities. This will not only enhance your children's learning experiences but also instill in them a sense of belonging and pride in their heritage.

Embracing culture in the classroom is not simply about addressing differences. It's about creating welcoming, inclusive learning spaces where every child and every family feels seen, heard, valued and respected.

In this issue, we'll explore and present ideas to create and sustain inclusive, culturally sensitive environments for children and families.

I invite you to collaborate with us. Happy Spring!

Diane



Celebrating and appreciating cultural differences

Children who feel connected to their cultural heritage are more likely to develop a strong sense of confidence and self-esteem. Incorporating cultural traditions, stories, and languages in the classroom helps children feel valued and understood. It reinforces their sense of identity and helps them navigate their place in our world with pride.

Celebrating cultural diversity encourages our children to appreciate different perspectives, promoting tolerance and respect for others.

You know your children thrive in environments where they feel they belong.

At Family Day, we know that when we acknowledge and respect the cultural backgrounds of children in our care, we are building a sense of belonging and security.

We also know that sense of belonging is vital for our children's overall development; it jumpstarts cognitive growth and broadens their understanding of today's world – invoking their curiosity and stoking their love of learning.

We strive to create an inclusive environment where every child feels respected and valued – inclusive of their heritage – and all have equal opportunities to thrive.

Through understanding traditions, languages and values, incorporating cultural elements into routines and activities, celebrating cultural holidays, providing diverse books and learning materials, and inviting families to share their traditions, we ensure that our spaces reflect the diversity of our community.

It goes further than simply celebrating cultural events; it involves weaving diverse perspectives into every aspect of learning, while appreciating and respecting differences.

Using a diverse curriculum is fundamental to promote cultural awareness in the classroom. It involves using materials and participating in activities that reflect various cultures, allowing children to see themselves and learn about others. Stories, cultural presentations and art can all significantly enhance our children's understanding and appreciation of diversity.



Striving toward equitable, inclusive learning

One of the ways Family Day programs foster a more inclusive and diverse learning experience is through creating opportunities for families to share their cultural heritage through language, stories and traditions.

Working together to create an inclusive culture, we can prepare our children to live in our ever-changing world. In an inclusive program children develop a positive sense of self and foster a general understanding and acceptance of different cultures and backgrounds.

At Family Day, that vital, reciprocal home-school cultural connection reverberates through everything we do with and for families.

As we continue working towards equitable, inclusive learning and building strong home/school relationships, we must be aware that we all possess unique cultural backgrounds and values, which can potentially present learning opportunities.

Personal experiences and values can differ. At Family Day, we clearly understand the importance of recognizing personal biases and setting them aside with each and every child and family. We understand the importance of asking questions, listening and learning with an open mind.

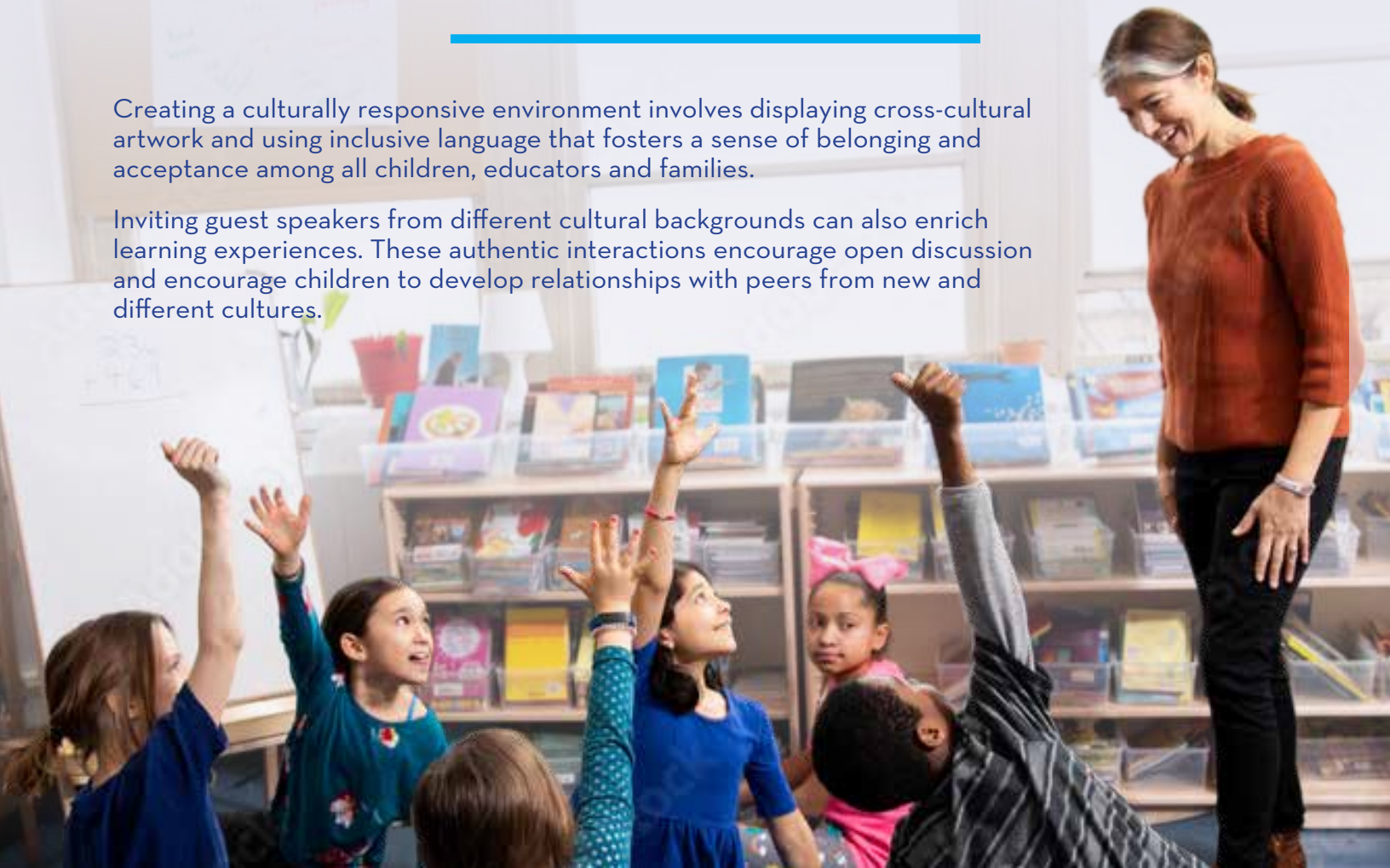


Ways for families to help us to embrace culture in the classroom

- Arrange a visit to share your traditional stories, folktales, and songs in your home language
- Teach your children simple phrases and greetings in their home language to promote multilingualism and cultural understanding
- Invite family members or community elders to visit Family Day to share stories or songs
- Demonstrate traditional crafts
- Share traditional dances and music
- Share traditional games and activities that promote social interaction
- Share how your family celebrates holidays/traditions i.e. birthdays
- Volunteer at Family Day or speak at events to share your family's cultural background and experiences
- Share your knowledge and skills with us, to help us better understand and support children from diverse backgrounds
- Share books, posters, and play materials that reflect your cultural background
- Advise Family Day about your family's cultural practices and values. Collaborate with us to create an inclusive environment that respects your family's culture
- Share any specific needs or concerns related to your child's cultural background.
- Collaborate with us to create a culturally sensitive and engaging learning environment

Creating a culturally responsive environment involves displaying cross-cultural artwork and using inclusive language that fosters a sense of belonging and acceptance among all children, educators and families.

Inviting guest speakers from different cultural backgrounds can also enrich learning experiences. These authentic interactions encourage open discussion and encourage children to develop relationships with peers from new and different cultures.





OPEN DOORS

FAMILY DAY OUTDOOR LEARNING ADVENTURES

SAVE — THE — DATE:

Open Doors Presents
Get out and Move for Family Day

Saturday, October 4, 2025
10 am to 2 pm

Kortright Centre for Conservation

The event is free and welcomes
all Family Day program users,
staff and caregivers.

Registration will begin in August 2025
and will be done on our website.

Sources:

<https://resources.beststart.org>

<https://www.childcareed.com>

<https://www.highscope.com> <https://cccf-fcsge.ca>

Embracing Diversity: The Significance of Culture in Child Care by Claribel Tafireyi



**FAMILY
DAY**



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Greater Toronto

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Our Programs

- Licensed Home Child Care
- Child Care Centres
- School Age Programs
- Resource Programs
- EarlyON Child and Family Centres
- Homework Plus

FOCUS Newsletter

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For countless families, Family Day is the only way!