

Writing multicultural and diverse planning - EYFS 2012

In the Development Matters guidance document linked to the EYFS 2012 requirements, specific area 'Understanding the World' includes a requirement to teach children about the world around them. Many childminders struggle with showing evidence of this, especially if they live in areas where diversity is not immediately evident in the local community.

Remember that you do not need to write this sort of planning for younger children in your provision - it will not be relevant as they will have little understanding of what you are doing. It is important, however, that you include diverse images in your provision and consider diversity and equality of opportunity when you are purchasing new resources, putting up posters etc.

Diversity might be centred around...

1. The child's home and family life - birthdays, special occasions, Eid / Easter / Christmas etc if relevant to the child
2. The local community - fire station open day, local fete, fair coming to town, May Day and other local celebrations etc
3. The wider world - celebrations and festivals children enjoy learning about taught from the perspective of how a child celebrates.

So over the summer / autumn months you might plan...

- **August** - holidays - relevant as lots of the children will be going away. Put up displays linked to different countries around the world including books, photographs, postcards etc. Talk about the places they go, the food, the clothes, food, music and dance etc. Compare with home and see how the children want to explore and take their learning further...
- **September** - Harvest festival - talk about harvest in the UK and the way it is celebrated in schools and churches throughout the country. Where possible visit a local community harvest festival display. Compare with Harvest festivals through the world, talk about fruit and vegetables, find out about farming etc.
- **October** - Halloween - many parents are not keen on Halloween as they see it as a pagan festival, however most children enjoy finding out about spiders, bats etc. Or if parents are not keen on pagan festivals you could focus instead on a festival relevant to the children or just continue your autumn exploration - you can do things with fallen leaves for weeks!! When you are planning - think globally! Use templates of leaves from various trees which grow around the world... look at Australian spiders (eek!), find out about where bats live in different countries etc.

Young children need an overview of the world around them presented in the right context, carefully introduced through books, music, dance, arts and crafts, cooking etc - things they understand and enjoy.