

## Harmony Week

# HARMONY WEEK

EVERYONE BELONGS



<b>Type of event:</b>	Educational Curriculum Event
<b>Date:</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2023
<b>Duration:</b>	Full Week

<b>What is the special event?</b>	<b>EVERYONE BELONGS</b>
	<p>Harmony Week is a time to celebrate Australian multiculturalism. It is all about inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background. Harmony Week also includes the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, March 21<sup>st</sup>.</p> <p>Australia’s cultural diversity is one of our greatest strengths and is at the heart of who we are. It makes Australia a great place to live. All people who migrate to Australia bring with them some of their cultural and religious traditions, as well as taking on many new traditions. Collectively, these traditions have and will continue to enrich our lives.</p> <p>Orange is the chosen colour for Harmony Week. This is because traditionally, orange signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encourage of mutual respect.</p>

<b>Why is it important to Keiki Early Learning?</b>	<p>At Keiki we celebrate inclusiveness, respect, and a sense of belonging for all children who attend.</p> <p>Culture is what shapes us; it shapes our behaviour and our identity. Culture is a way of living. It refers to the shared language, beliefs, values, norms, behaviours, and material objects that are passed down from one generation to the next. Our practices are influenced by each educator, child and family’s culture and traditions.</p> <p>Young children are naturally curious about differences. One of the ways they make sense of their world is to sort things into different categories and focus on one thing at a time. For example, whether a child has the same or different skin colour to them. Children do this to organise their experiences. Helping children understand and celebrate difference encourages them to feel good about who they are, where they fit in the world and appreciate the diversity in others. It helps to build strong, inclusive communities where everyone enjoys a sense of being valued and belonging which supports positive mental health.</p> <p>When children develop positive relationships with other children and educators, it helps them to feel that they belong. This early learning about themselves and others lays the foundation for their future health and wellbeing.</p>
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<b>What are our expectations?</b>	<p>Harmony week is the time for children to learn about differences and celebrate the differences they are exposed to.</p> <p>Create opportunities for families, children, and educators to share their culture or cultures. Use this information to create an intentional teaching program that explores, values, and celebrates our differences and how these differences create unique traditions and our community.</p> <p>Posters can be displayed in centres or on noticeboards. Families should be advised of the planned experiences and information is to be shared via Xplor. Services can send suitable images and experiences to Marketing for posting on Facebook and Instagram.</p>
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<b>Activity Ideas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn what children understand culture and cultural diversity to be.</li> <li>• Hang a map and tag where children and staff are from and where they have lived, as living in different places shapes a person or family’s traditions.</li> <li>• Expand awareness of differences through books, songs and resources</li> <li>• Use musical instruments from around the world</li> <li>• Dinner last night? Talk to children about what they ate for dinner last night. Investigate where the meal originates from.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn to say hello in different languages</li> <li>• Create art using different methods from different cultures</li> <li>• Plan a meal or meals from children and educators’ cultures</li> <li>• Source and add to the service collection different multicultural and multilingual resources for families.</li> <li>• Incursions/special people: Invite families, children, and educators to share something from their culture with the children. For example, children and educators can bring in books, music, or toys. Families and educators can bring in a recipe or prepare a recipe with the cook or share stories with the children.</li> </ul>
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## LINKING THIS EVENT TO RESOURCES AND DATA

To support educators, educational leaders and early childhood teachers we link each event with important and valuable resources that support and inform our decision making at Keiki.

<p><b>How can we link this event to our Philosophy?</b></p>	<p><b>Core Value: Our Community</b> Our relationships with children and families are strengthened as we explore and develop a deeper understanding of the diversity and culture of families and the broader community. We respect and welcome all contributions from children, families and community members to our shared space of play and learning. By creating an inclusive environment our curriculum is enriched and each child’s sense of belonging and development is enhanced, helping to create a strong foundation for lifelong learning.</p> <p><b>Core Value: The Whole Child</b> We believe every child is born full of potential with an innate desire to learn and explore their world. Our highly experienced teams provide beautiful, thoughtful environments where children are invited and encouraged to make their own choices, to explore the arts, enjoy physical play, practice mindfulness and develop meaningful, positive relationships with others.</p>
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<p><b>How does this event link to the AEDC Data?</b></p>	<p><b>Physical Health and Wellbeing</b> In Western Australia 10.4% of children are at risk and 8.9% of children are vulnerable in this category. This event can lead and support conversations with children and families about different foods and how people eat in different parts of the world. This can extend onto sharing recipes with families and information on healthy eating.</p> <p><b>Social Competence</b> In Western Australia 14.6% of children are at risk and 7.7% of children are vulnerable in this category. This event is an opportunity to understand and recognise different cultures and traditions some of our children and families are already familiar with or celebrate at home. Experiences planned to celebrate this event will provide children the opportunity to work together and interact. Role model for your children how to respect other cultures and traditions.</p> <p><b>Emotional Maturity</b> In Western Australia 14.6% of children are at risk and 7.7% of children are vulnerable in this category. Use this event to create opportunities to develop the children’s empathy skills.</p> <p><b>Language and Cognitive Skills</b> In Western Australia 10% of children are at risk and 6.6% of children are vulnerable in this category. Children will ask questions and discuss together if you ask them questions. Read stories, watch educational video clips and provide children (or role model) the opportunity to question what they see, recount what they see and to investigate their questions. Cooking experiences can promote recognising patterns and taking steps.</p> <p><b>Communication and General Knowledge</b> In Western Australia 11.7% of children are at risk and 7% of children are vulnerable in this category.</p>
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Event Fact Sheet

	Talk to and listen to the children. Read stories. Talk about the feelings of people celebrating their own culture. Have a special mealtime together and make it a social interaction. Have some pretend play based around different cultures.
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<p><b>How does this link to the ECA Code of Ethics?</b></p>	<p>In relation to children, I will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Act in the best interests of all children</li> <li>• Create and maintain safe, healthy, inclusive environments that support children’s agency and enhance their learning</li> <li>• Provide a meaningful curriculum to enrich children’s learning, balancing child and educator-initiated experiences</li> <li>• Understand and be able to explain to others how play and leisure enhance children’s learning, development and wellbeing</li> <li>• Ensure childhood is a time for being in the here and now and not solely about preparation for the future</li> <li>• Value the relationship between children and their families and enhance these relationships through my practice</li> <li>• ensure that children are not discriminated against on the basis of gender, sexuality, age, ability, economic status, family structure, lifestyle, ethnicity, religion, language, culture, or national origin</li> </ul> <p>In relation to colleagues, I will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• acknowledge and support the diverse strengths and experiences of colleagues in order to build shared professional knowledge, understanding and skills</li> </ul> <p>In relation to families, I will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• learn about, respect and respond to the uniqueness of each family, their circumstances, culture, family structure, customs, language, beliefs and kinship systems</li> </ul>
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<p><b>How does this event link to the UN Rights of the Child?</b></p>	<p>Articles:</p> <p>13. Children have the right to get and share information, as long as the information is not damaging to them or to others.</p> <p>14. Children have the right to think and believe what they want and to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Parents should guide children on these matters.</p> <p>29. Education should develop each child’s personality and talents to the full. It should encourage children to respect their parents, their cultures and other cultures.</p> <p>30. children have the right to learn and use the language and customs of their families, whether or not these are shared by the majority of the people in the country where they live, as long as this doesn’t not harm others.</p> <p>31. children have the right to relax, play and to join in a wide range of leisure activities.</p> <p>Please talk to the children about the Rights of the Child. Do you have it displayed in your service for the children?</p>
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