

Diwali

(optional – requested by Catalina families)



Date:	10 th - 15 th November
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What is the special event?	Diwali, or Dipawali, is <u>India's</u> biggest and most important holiday of the year. The festival gets its name from the row (<i>avali</i>) of clay lamps (<i>deeps</i>) that Indians light outside their homes to symbolize the inner light that protects from spiritual darkness. This festival is as important to Hindus as the Christmas holiday is to Christians. The third day of Diwali (Sunday 12th November 2023) is regarded to be the festival's major eve. The festival is celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs and Jains across the world. The festival, which coincides with the Hindu New Year, celebrates new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness.
Why is it important to Keiki Early Learning?	The families at Catalina have requested to recognise Diwali at the service. At Keiki, we believe in creating an environment that includes and celebrates the diversity of our families. Families are the primary influence in their children's lives; they often have strong beliefs and values regarding the education and care of their children. When families and services collaborate and build respectful relationships, children have the opportunity to develop a positive sense of self and experience respectful relationships. As well, the child, the family and the service do not exist in isolation; they are part of a much wider community. Children benefit from services engaging with local communities because these partnerships strengthen children's interest and skills in being active contributors to their community.
Activity Ideas	Here are some ideas to get you started. You may wish to use some of these or create your own. Take input from educators, children and families and choose activities that have meaning for your service. Remember that the essence of Diwali lies in the celebration of light, goodness, and unity. • Invite parents/family members who celebrate Diwali into the service to speak with the children or guide the children in an activity. • Books about Diwali - https://theeducatorsspinonit.com/best-diwali-books-for-kids/ • Playdough Rangoli Mandalas - https://nurturestore.co.uk/play-dough-mandalas-sensory-play • Make salt dough tealight holders • Mandala creation – crafts/paper/paint/natural objects/chalk (Mandalas represent how everything in the universe is connected).