



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
PRESCHOOL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
POLICY

NO. 01 ECD ISSUE 1
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EFFECTIVE: 12-10-12

SUBJECT:

HOLIDAY POLICY

APPROVED: 12-10-12

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BY: Nighett Ahmed, Acting Director

PURPOSE:

To comply with the Head Start Performance Standards to ensure that each child is provided with an environment of acceptance that supports and respects their gender, culture, language, ethnicity and family composition.

POLICY:

Preschool Services Department does not include religious instruction or worship within the curriculum provided to children and families. This policy includes religious materials in any form (Written, Auditory and Visual). Great effort is made to offer children a wide variety of multicultural and diverse experiences throughout the year by focusing on the following goal:

- We strive to be aware of the cultures of the children and families we serve.
- We promote friendship, caring, tolerance and peace and focus on similarities and acknowledge differences.
- We celebrate worldwide cultures and environments.

REFERENCES:

1304.21 Education and Early Childhood Development.

(a) Child development and education approach for all children.

(1) In order to help children gain the skills and confidence necessary to be prepared to succeed in their present environment and with later responsibilities in school and life, grantee and delegate agencies' approach to child development and education must:

(i) Be developmentally and linguistically appropriate, recognizing that children have individual rates of development as well as individual interests, temperaments, languages, cultural backgrounds, and learning styles;

(ii) Be inclusive of children with disabilities, consistent with their Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Education Program (IEP) (see 45 CFR 1308.19);

(iii) Provide an environment of acceptance that supports and respects gender, culture, language, ethnicity and family composition;

Preschool Services Department respects each child's gender, culture, language, ethnicity and family composition by avoiding a "holiday syndrome" or a holiday-driven approach to curriculum. Based on the National Head Start, the issue "to celebrate or not to celebrate?" is not the question. Rather, the issue is how to decide what to celebrate. We embrace the holidays by placing emphasis on the seasons and providing educational activities that are inclusive of all children, for example:

- Fall Festival
- Spring Fling
- Friendship Day
- Pajama Day
- Harvest Festival
- Winter Festival
- Summer Fun Fest

Additional Celebrations that are integrated into the curriculum include:

- End of the Year Celebrations: We celebrate to mark the end of a child's Preschool experience and the transition to Kindergarten. The use of graduation cap and gown is not appropriate and therefore, not allowed during this event. This is the time for children to say farewell to their friends and teachers, sing songs learned throughout the year and share accomplishments of children and parents.
- End of the Year Portfolio: As part of the Desired Results/Child Outcomes; a portfolio is created for every child in our program to document their growth, development and school experience. Photos of the children are taken throughout the school year, displaying them engaged in activities that justify their rating on the DRDP measures. The child's Portfolio will be provided to the parent at the end of the school year. No solicitation of class pictures allowed in any of the centers, No day should be designated as "Photo day," it takes time away from children's learning experience.