

Planning for a Multicultural OSHC Environment Checklist

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Frequently	Always
Staff					
Are staff aware of the cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the families in their care?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Are staff encouraged to learn more about the cultures represented in the service as well as other cultures?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
If you have bilingual staff, are they encouraged to use their language with the children?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Are the bilingual staff encouraged to use their language / knowledge with the children?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Do staff try and learn a few phrases in the languages of the children they care for or other languages?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Families					
Are parents given the opportunity to participate in the decisions which affect their children?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Are there opportunities for parents to communicate with staff in their first language, with the help of an interpreter if needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Do parents have the opportunity to share information about their child's needs, routine, key family events and the family's cultural practices?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Are there many ways in which parents can contribute to the service e.g. setting up a display, informal translating, lending an object, and helping with an activity / experience?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Are children encouraged to develop an awareness of their own identity and to increase their interest in the heritage of others?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Has your service analysed attendance patterns to see if children from a particular culture use / do not use the service, the reasons for this and how to develop marketing strategies for future promotion?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Is the service aware of the cultural demographics of the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Visual Displays					
Do you have posters, notices, pamphlets in relevant community languages?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Is there somewhere in the service especially devoted to the interests and cultural backgrounds of the parents?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Is there information for parents, in relevant community languages, giving details of the staff, program menu, etc.?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Do pictures, displays, etc. reflect the multicultural nature of Australia i.e. people of diverse backgrounds engaged in familiar everyday activities?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Dramatic Play					
Does it include:					
Cooking and eating utensils commonly used in homes of people from different cultures e.g. wok, chopsticks, coffee pot, steamer, and grinder?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
A variety of representational food e.g. wool spaghetti, cloth pita breads?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Furniture common to different cultures e.g. low table, cushions for sitting, mats for bedding?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Clothing worn by people of different cultures e.g. for every day, for festivals and celebrations, seasonal clothing, pieces of fabric, shoes, hats, jewellery?	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Dramatic Play continued

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Food packages that have labels in languages other than English?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Everyday print, e.g. telephone directory, calendar, newspaper, menus, in various languages?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
A range of diverse and child sized cleaning equipment e.g. traditional brooms, mops?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Girl and boy dolls and puppets; with features, skin tones, hair and clothing representing different cultural groups?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Decorations reflecting traditional colours, patterns and textures of various cultures e.g. mats, wall hangings, ornaments, curtains?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Props supporting a variety of occupations and life styles e.g. briefcases, shopping bags, toolboxes, straw hats, police hats?	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Music and Movement

Are there cassettes or CDs of music from different cultures?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Is music used for a variety of purposes from background music, indoors / outdoors, etc.?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Do the children have the opportunity to hear music, learn songs, and see dances of different cultural groups?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Are dances, musical rhythmic games taught that are typical of different cultures?	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Outdoor Area

Is there music from different cultures to accompany outdoor activities?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Can the children make cubbies from fabric, natural materials, palm fronds and branches etc.?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Is there an opportunity to cook and eat outdoors?	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Water Play

Is water play encouraged?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Can the children experience different modes of water storage and carrying?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Do the children understand the importance of water and how it is used / value by different cultures?	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Woodwork

Are there displays, pictures, examples of wooden objects typical of different cultures, e.g. buildings, implements, transports?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Is the use of wood, blocks, crafts etc., encouraged in activities?	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Art and Craft Activities

Are activities set up outdoors as well as indoors?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Are practical art / craft projects part of the program?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Are there designs, patterns and crafts displayed or demonstrated, representing different cultures e.g. Polish paper cutting, Rangoli, Aboriginal designs, weaving etc.?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Is there the opportunity to work with natural materials e.g. sand, stones, clay, leaves, bark?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Are there a variety of art materials available to reflect diversity?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Do fine motor activities include traditional crafts such as weaving and sewing?	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Library and / or Book Corner

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Do the children have access to books, cassette stories etc. in their home language?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Is the area attractive and inviting, incorporating fabric etc. from other cultures?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Are children exposed to a variety of literature and texts which will help them to understand the differences and similarities between backgrounds, religions, cultural traditions and languages?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Do the illustrations and content of some of the books reflect positively the multicultural reality of Australia?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Do the books include folk stories, stories of children in other countries, poetry and rhymes, handmade books?	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Games and Puzzles

Are there games and puzzles from other countries for the children to play?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Do children play outdoor games from other countries?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Is there a wide variety of objects for sorting and classifying, memory games, counting etc.?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Do some of the materials have words printed in English and community languages or are some games played bilingually?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Are parents asked to share games they played as a child?	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Food and Cooking

Do you allow children to make / try different foods from other cultures at snack time?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Do the cooking experiences encourage the children to experiment with other foods other than those familiar to them?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Do you have cooking utensils from different countries for the children to use?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Does the enrolment form for your service have an area for families to write any dietary requirements for both allergy reasons and cultural / religious reasons?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Are staff aware of diverse dietary restrictions and foods?	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Group Time

Are the children introduced to languages other than English?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Are similarities between cultures and people highlighted, rather than differences?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Do the pictures, puppets, stories, excursions, visitors etc. reflect the multicultural nature of Australia?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Are the children encouraged to use their own languages to share aspects of their culture?	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Festivals and Celebrations

Do you know which celebrations are important to each family attending your service?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Do you incorporate festivals and celebrations on a regular basis in your program?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Are festivals and celebrations based on activities that are meaningful to the children and involve them in an active way?	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Management Committee

Does the Management Committee budget for paid staff training and development?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Is a summary of the policies and general information about the service available in community languages?	<input type="checkbox"/>				

