

Ideas for

NON-FOOD CELEBRATIONS

We know that celebrations are often associated with cupcakes and cakes, but it's important to show children that they can have fun, feel special, and celebrate without all the sugar. Non-food celebrations can be some of the most fun and popular ways to honor a special event. Try some of these fun-filled ideas the next time you want to celebrate!

For the Birthday Child:

- Let the birthday child be the first to do each activity for the day.
- Create a birthday library where each child's parent donates a book to the program library on their child's birthday. Read the book aloud in honor of the child's birthday.
- Allow the birthday child to be the program assistant for the day to help with special tasks, such as making deliveries around the site.
- Create a "Celebrate Me" book. Have teachers or peers write stories or poems and draw pictures to describe what is special about the birthday child.
- Create a special birthday package. The birthday child wears a sash and crown, sits in a special chair, and receives a special birthday surprise like a sticker, birthday card, coloring book, etc. If applicable, have the child visit the director's office to receive their gift.

For Other Celebrations:

- Use games or crafts, asking parents to bring in supplies for the game or project. If possible, it's extra special to invite parents to the class to lead the activity.
- Ask parents to send in small items for a class trading event, such as pencils, stickers, or erasers.
- Have a dance party.
- Provide extra play time.
- Bring in guest story readers.
- Have a special show and tell.
- Have a themed scavenger hunt around the site.
- Stock a treasure chest for each child to choose something from. Ask parents to send in items or small trinkets to fill the chest.
- Eat lunch outside.
- Set up an obstacle course.

