

Harvest Celebration

Bible Verse:

Psalm 1:3

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Why We Celebrate This Holiday:

A Harvest Celebration is great for teaching children the wonders of farming and agriculture. This can be celebrated anytime between September through October, but it is most often celebrated in October. You can celebrate the Harvest by visiting a farm or a ranch, enjoying farmer's markets, corn and hay mazes, carnival games and visiting the local pumpkin patch. This is also a great alternative for Halloween.

Lesson Ideas:

1. Thankful for the Harvest-Talk about how much farmers help us by growing food for us to eat. Let the kids cut pictures out of their favorite fruits and vegetables and make a collage.
2. Helping Others: This is also a good opportunity to show children how they can help others by collecting food for a food pantry. Explain to the children that not everyone has enough food to share, so they can help by bringing canned foods and other non-perishables.
3. Reaping Rewards-This is another good lesson for children to learn. Show the children how hard work can pay off in the long run. Explain to them how hard farmers have to work to get their reward at harvest time.

Decorations:

1. Use fall colors (brown, yellow, orange) and fill the room with fall colored pictures, streamers and balloons.
2. Bring in a bale of hay. You can get an inexpensive bale of hay and bring it to the classroom. Place a red piece of fabric over the top and use it for a cute photo-op spot for the kids.
3. Scarecrows are also good for a Harvest Celebration. Scarecrows are traditionally used at farms to scare away the bothersome crows. Get one and put it in your classroom.

Craft:

Harvest Basket: Make a harvest basket. Use brown construction paper to construct a basket. Stack two sheets of paper on top of each other and cut out a circle. Cut it in half and glue the halves together at the bottom, leaving the top open. Have the children color the basket. They can look through magazines and cut out pictures of food that they like to eat. Have them cut out the pictures and place it inside their harvest basket.

Snacks:

1. Host a harvest feast: Many young children are very picky about the foods that they eat. Use this opportunity to hold a harvest feast. Have each child bring something healthy to share with the class. Make sure that there is a good selection of fresh fruits and vegetables. Finger sandwiches are also a good idea.
2. Apple cider-Fall is a perfect time to let the kids try apple cider. Serve it during your harvest celebration feast.

Game:

Pass the Fruit: This game is played like “Hot Potato”. Sit the children in a circle and give one child a piece of fruit (an apple works well). Start some music and have the children pass the apple around in the circle. When the music stops, the child holding the apple is “out”. The last child remaining is the winner.

Carnival type games are also fun. Set up a mini-carnival in your room with apple bobbing (tie on strings and hang from doorway, have kids bite the apple without touching), toss the fruit (set up several baskets and have the kids try to toss the apples into the basket), or knock the cans over using a ball.

Gift Idea:

Give children a small treat bag filled with fun items such as scarecrow or pumpkin stickers, candy and small containers of bubbles.