



THINGS TO THINK ABOUT AND DO

Webinar participants were asked to name one change they would like to try to better include cultural traditions and family voice in their programs. The list below reflects the ideas that they shared.

- Be intentional about serving culturally relevant food, including food from families' countries
- Host recipe exchanges
- Incorporate food and music or songs from different cultures
- Provide meeting information and materials in multiple languages
- Use interpreters, translators, or multilingual guest speakers
- Be intentional about acknowledging and supporting families' home languages
- Build structured discussion time into group meetings (e.g., turn-and-talks, parent discussions)
- Hold space for difficult or sensitive conversations
- Begin the year with relationship-building activities such as "All About My Family"
- Create opportunities for families to share their cultures (e.g., show-and-tell or cultural spotlights)
- Incorporate traditional clothing, traditions, and cultural practices into meetings
- Host meetings or events where multiple cultures or countries are represented
- Use shared spaces (e.g., tables or stations) for families to showcase traditions
- Intentionally tie cultural traditions into group activities
- Use culturally relevant books and learning materials
- Invite parents into advisory or decision-making roles
- Invite parents to present, lead, or facilitate cultural sharing
- Co-design meetings or trainings with parents
- Use surveys and structured feedback tools to gather family input
- Use home visits as intentional listening and voice-gathering opportunities
- Encourage parent-led playdates and informal connections
- Invest time in understanding the local community context

ACCESS THE MATERIALS

 [Webinar Recording](#)

 [Presentation Slides](#)

SESSION FOCUS

This session focused on exploring how cultural traditions and family voice can be meaningfully woven into HIPPY programs as part of everyday practice, not just special events. Participants were joined by guest speaker [Talethia Edwards](#), Executive Director of Good News Outreach and founder of The HAND UP Project, who shared insights on building programs with families rather than for them. Through stories, discussion, and reflection, the session emphasized honoring families as experts on their children and highlighting practical ways to create belonging, strengthen relationships, and invite families to help shape group meetings and program experiences.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE

The Edmonton Public Library blog post [Incorporating Cultural Stories and Traditions into Early Literacy](#) includes a section titled "Activities to Incorporate Cultural Stories at Home." This resource offers simple, practical ideas that programs can share with parents to support early literacy while honoring family culture, traditions, and storytelling at home.

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