

Best Practices

Cultural workshops in an Education and Care Structure (ECS)

Awareness and openness to difference begin at a very young age: learning to accept each person as they are – with their background, origins, differences, and culture – is an asset for community life, both in education and in the workplace.

With this in mind, “cultural workshops” can be organised with the families of children attending the Education and Care Structure (ECS) (*Structure d’Education et d’Accueil (SEA)*). Together, the educational team, the children, and their families choose a country that will be the focus of the activity. Discussions are held with families from the chosen country to consider the skills, experiences, and ideas to be shared. Then, various activities are planned together: cooking workshops, writing workshops, singing, games, or other recreational activities.

In addition to raising children’s awareness of diversity, this approach also encourages parents to actively participate in the life of the educational institution. Indeed, parental involvement strengthens their relationship with the supervisory team, creates a climate of trust, and highlights their role in their child’s development.

The educational team may also offer its own workshops. The emphasis and priority are placed on interaction and cooperation between the various stakeholders involved.

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Objectives

The objective is to introduce different countries and cultures through cooking, music, dance, etc. The collaborative approach creates a basis of trust, strengthens relationships between all participants, and values children, their families, and their cultures.

Methods

The choice of country is important: preferably, choose a country that several children attending the ECS come from.

Moreover, it is recommended to ask parents if they are interested in participating in the workshop, and if so, in what way (e.g. writing, singing, presentation, cooking, games, creative workshop, reading workshop, etc.).

Activities related to the chosen country with the children, the team and the families can take place over an afternoon, a day or a week (it is up to you to decide).

Budget

The budget depends on the duration of the activity and the various elements chosen. If, for example, a small party is organised to end a week of activities, a typical drink from the country or appetisers – made with the children and/or by the parents – can be offered. It is up to the ECS to decide, whether to provide a contribution/allowance for purchases.



Materials

The ECS's rooms can be used for workshops, as well as equipment for crafts. Depending on the workshops chosen, it may be necessary to do some shopping, which can also be done together with the parent(s). In this case, it is up to the ECS to decide whether to provide a contribution/allowance for purchases.

If the ECS does not have a room available, it is always possible to ask the municipality or another partner to provide a suitable venue.

Periodicity

1-3 times a year

Evaluation indicators

- **Quantitative :**

Number of participants – parents and children

Number of workshops

- **Qualitative:**

Qualitative feedback from children, parents and educators on the development of their relationships

Feedback from children on their knowledge of the countries presented

Feedback from children and parents on the quality and satisfaction of the workshops

Practical advice - DO's

Include parents

If several workshops are planned, ensure that each participant could take part in all workshops.

Take the time to explain the workshops to parents, organise a meeting to present the project, find out their availability and explain what their participation involves.



Practical advice - DONT's

Do not force families or parents who are uncomfortable; in this case, it is possible to call on an external facilitator.

Be sure to avoid clichés and do not reinforce cultural stereotypes!

Contact person/Possible partners

Parents are the preferred partners: they can share their culture and traditions with other children and parents. It is also possible to call on external contributors (associations or others).

Contact: Maison relais Kannernascht-ASTI asbl.

kannernascht@asti.lu

Additional information

https://www.asti.lu/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/PlitschPlatschPlutschKannernascht-2025-VF_compressed.pdf

