Come on In! How Directors and Teachers Can Use Rituals and Traditions to Create Community!

Presented by
Jacky Howell and
Kimberly Reinhard
My favorite childhood memory is the time you gave me a pony of my very own, and I spent the summer galloping through meadows of wildflowers.

We didn't give you a pony, and you haven't ever galloped through wildflowers in your life!

Well, it's never too late to make memories happen!
“Be kind to one another”

RITUALS and TRADITIONS...

“I am so glad we had this time together...”
Jacky Howell, MA
Consultant,
azspire@gmail.com
WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

Kimberly Reinhard, Director/Consultant
Langley Children’s Center,
reinhardconsulting@mail.com
We’ve been waiting for you to come to this place, waiting for you to come to this place, wherever your from, we’re glad that you’ve come. We’ve been waiting for you to come to this place!

--Bev Bos

POLL
“I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

—Maya Angelou
GOALS OF SESSION

1. We will consider the importance of creating a caring community in our programs and HOW creating rituals and traditions are important in this process.

2. What are “rituals and traditions” for programs?

3. A place to start: our memories and experiences as a groundwork to building rituals and traditions.

4. A variety of examples of rituals and traditions from programs will be presented to spur your own.
MEMORIES...
What do you remember from the time you were a child?
Do you think of moments memory knows well?
Are there little things like trinkets you carry with you now.
That trigger stories memory wants to tell?

POLL
ROUTINES:
Routines are events that regularly occur in a certain order. Routines help children learn the order of what happens during the day and to know what comes next in a day.

RITUALS:
“Rituals are procedures or routines that are infused with deeper meaning. They help make common experiences uncommon events” (Deal & Peterson 1999, 32).

TRADITIONS:
Traditions are meaningful events or experiences that a class or program has created and that are expected to occur regularly.
Pillars of Security—Building Community

--Jim Greenman

• PEOPLE

• PLACE
• ROUTINE

• RITUALS

• TRADITIONS
“Our individual lives are ordered and made meaningful with daily rites... the first cup of coffee, goodbye kisses, routes taken to school or work...Ritual joins routine and the physical order as the secure skeleton that holds individuals and groups together in those times of stress, against the uncertainties of staff and children who come and go... Adults have rites to help their lives, of beginnings—birthdays, marriage...of passages... These rites are marked by symbolic acts that have great meaning and emotional power... Ritual serves the same purpose in children’s programs. Group daily rites—i.e. sharing the same song and the same story day after day---reassure against the unknown void. Children under age three will listen to Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown with delight at every rest time. There are acknowledged rites of passage—children give up diapers, naps, or leave for school. Individual rituals between children and caregivers can become pinions of security---a special touch, a shared joke, any regular shared exchange.”

--Jim Greenman
What Are the Key Elements of a Ritual?

**Intentionality:**
Ask yourself what you want to achieve by creating a ritual. What are you hoping children, teachers, and families will experience or gain from this ritual?

**Individualization:**
When rituals have special meaning to the people involved, they are effective for that group. Part of creating rituals is adding elements that specifically relate to the children you teach.

**Tools and Techniques:**
Young children learn best when they are involved in active, hands-on experiences that engage their senses and are repeated over time.
How do we organize rituals and traditions?
Daily Rituals…

Beginning of Day…

Goodbye Window
Daily Rituals...

Pets

Neo-Fire
Visits to the Office!

And End of Day…
DAILY SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL RITUALS

Puppets as daily friends...
A wonderful woman lived in a shoe. She had so many children. She knew exactly what to do. She held them, she rocked them, she tucked them in bed, “I love you, I love you”, is what she said.

--Becky Bailey
Weekly Rituals...
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MONDAY MORNING MEMO

We have a sled dog visiting this Friday, on July 29th. The woman will bring her sled dog, Sadie, a sled on wheels, equipment and a book on sled dogs to read to the children. Please make sure to put a note on your sign in sheets and let us know if anyone has an allergy to dogs that families mention and we will keep them away from this activity.

Join me in congratulating Ms. Nicki who just got engaged! We are so excited for you!

Also, with so much planned this summer, I waived on having pajama day in July and August. Parents and children love it but if you think it will be too much, please let me know by Tuesday morning. If there are no issues with it, I will let families and children that we are on for Pajama Day over the summer. The next Pajama Day would be Monday.

*** The key to success is simple. Make people dream. ***
Gerard De Nerval
WEEKLY SPECIAL DAYS

Dress as Your Favorite Children’s Book Character

Dr Seuss’ Birthday
WEEKLY SPECIAL DAYS

CHAPTER BOOKS AND STORYTELLING

MY FATHER’S DRAGON

By Ruth Stiles Gannett
Illustrated by Ruth Chrisman Gannett

THE HOBBIT

J.R.R. Tolkien

Dwarves of Moria
WEEKLY SPECIAL DAYS

FIELD TRIPS
Monthly Rituals...

Pajama day...

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Monthly Rituals...

FRIENDSHIP DAY

DETECTIVE DAY
Brownielocks and The 3 Bears present

Daily Calendar

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<td>“National Chicken Lady Day”</td>
<td>National Men Make Dinner Day</td>
<td>“International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict”</td>
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Yearly Rituals... that may become Traditions

A traditional family event co-created with the children, is the “I Love You Dinner”.

Children write invitations, make a menu, go grocery shopping, decorate the room, pick songs to sing, cook all the food, and serve their families.

Sam is shopping with Daniel and Sara.
I LOVE YOU
DINNER

Over 20 years!!!
WELCOME TO
THE NEW
SCHOOL YEAR!

Snail mail
letters to the
children to start
off the school
year!!
The week of **April 6th-12th**, LCC will be celebrating the Week of the Young Child, sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). This week honors young children and the professionals who educate them. We will be planning special activities and experiences every day throughout the week culminating in our Spring Party on Friday in which we will have a Petting Zoo! We hope to spend a great deal of time outside with every Pod taking a nature hike on the trail to discover new animals, plants and life in the great outdoors.
Ballet Petite
Not a swan but lovely despite the sprains and strains. Just ask Angelina.

You will learn the five ballet positions and the Good Day song. You must do all of the above for the instructor to receive your next clue.
STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS

PROCESS ART Scavenger Hunt
(Top Secret)
This is your mission. You must work as a team to find as many items (as humanly possible) on the list below.

Your mission over the next 2.5 hours:

___one item that is purple

___two items that can be used to create a structure over 2 feet tall

___three items NEW process art projects you will try with your class
End of Year Celebration.

Celebrating Milestones...
Seasonal Rituals...
Basketball

Establishing Schedule

Philipsburg High School
1924-1925

Marjorie Adams Captain for Season 1925

Marjorie Adams, a member of the class of 1925, was chosen captain of girl's basketball by the members of the girls' varsity at the close of last year. "BeBe" plays guard, being one of the best guards that the Blue and White has ever produced. She began her career in basketball when a Freshman, with determination to do her best. Her ability as a leader is being shown many times, both in the practices that are held and in the games that are played.

The Blue and White feels honored to have such a capable girl represent her girls in the basketball field of '25.

Article about my grandmother...
Bean Cake
Hatching....
Holiday Rituals and Special Celebration Rituals... Carrying them on
CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS RITUALS AND TRADITIONS
INVOLVE FAMILIES
TRADITIONS LAST FOREVER!!!
Creating Community
Creating Connections
Creating Rituals and Traditions

And what about the children you find around you now? Are you making time to sing and talk and play? So someday they’ll have memories of love and being loved, Protection that will never go away.
YOU CAN NOW PURCHASE OUR BOOK!

https://www.naeyc.org/store/rituals-and-traditions
KEEP IN TOUCH WITH US!

ritualsandtraditions@gmail.com

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Kimberly Reinhard:
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