

**Planning for A Multi-Cultural Child Care Environment
Checklist**

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Frequently	Always
Staff					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are staff aware of the cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the families in their care? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are staff encouraged to learn more about the cultures represented in the service as well as other cultures? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are bilingual/bicultural staff employed within the service? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the bilingual staff encouraged to use their language/knowledge, with the children? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do staff try and learn a few phrases in the languages of the children they care for or other languages? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Families					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do all families feel accepted and valued? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are parents given the opportunity to participate in the decisions which affect their children? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there opportunities for parents to communicate with staff in their first language, with the help of an interpreter if needed? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do parents have the opportunity to share information about their child's needs, routine, key family events and the family's cultural practices? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there many ways in which parents can contribute to the service Eg. Setting up a display, informal translating, lending an object, helping with an activity/experience? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are children encouraged to develop an awareness of their own identity and to increase their interest in the heritage of others? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has your service analysed attendance patterns to see if children from a particular culture use/do not use the service, the reasons for this and how to develop marketing strategies for future promotion? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the service aware of cultural demographic of the area? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visual Display					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you have posters, notices, pamphlets in relevant community languages? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there information for parents, in relevant community languages, giving details of the staff, program, menu, etc? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do the pictures, displays, etc, reflect the multicultural nature of Australia ie. People of diverse backgrounds engaged in familiar everyday activities? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there somewhere in the service especially devoted to the interests and cultural backgrounds of the parents? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Dramatic Play</p> <p>Does it include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooking and eating utensils commonly used in homes of people from different cultures Eg. wok, chopsticks, coffee pot, steamer, grinder? A variety of representational food Eg. Wool spaghetti, cloth pita breads? Furniture common to different cultures Eg. Low table, cushions for sitting, mats for bedding? Clothing worn by people of different cultures – everyday, for festivals and celebrations, seasonal clothing, pieces of fabric, shoes, hats, jewellery? Food packages that have labels in languages other than English? Everyday print, Eg. telephone directory, calendar, newspaper, menus, in various languages? A range of diverse and child-size cleaning equipment Eg. Traditional brooms, mops? Girl and boy dolls and puppets; with features skin tones, hair and clothing representing different cultural groups? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decorations reflecting traditional colours, patterns and textures of various cultures Eg. mats, wall hangings, ornaments, curtains? Props supporting a variety of occupations and life-styles Eg. Briefcases, shopping bags, 'toolboxes, straw hats, police hats? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Music and Movement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there cassettes or CDs of music from different cultures? Is music used for a variety of purposes from background music, indoors/outdoors, etc? Do the children have access to musical instruments typical of different cultures? Do the children have the opportunity to hear music, learn songs and see dances of different cultural groups? Are dances, musical rhythmic games taught that are typical of different cultures? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Outdoor Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there music from different cultures to accompany outdoor activities? Can the children make cubbies from fabric natural materials, palm fronds, branches etc? Is there an opportunity to cook and eat outdoors? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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<p>Water Play</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is water play encouraged? • Can the children experience different modes of water storage and carrying? • Do the children understand the importance of water and how it is used/valued by different cultures? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Woodwork</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there displays, pictures examples of wooden objects typical of different cultures, Eg. buildings, implements, transport? • Is the use of wood in activities, whether as blocks, crafts, etc, encouraged? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Art and Craft Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are activities set up outdoors as well as indoors? • Are practical art/craft projects part of the program? • Are there designs, patterns and crafts displayed or demonstrated, representing different cultures Eg. Polish paper cutting, Rangoli, Aboriginal designs, weaving etc. • Is there the opportunity to work with natural materials Eg. sand, stones, clay, leaves, bark? • Are there black, brown and skin tone materials available? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do fine motor activities include traditional crafts such as weaving and sewing? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Library and/or Book Corner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do the children have access to books, cassette stories, etc in their home language? Is the area attractive and inviting, incorporating Eg. fabrics from different cultures? 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are children exposed to a variety of literature and texts which will help them to understand the differences and similarities between backgrounds, religions, cultural traditions and languages? Do the illustrations and content of some of the books reflect positively the multicultural reality of Australia? Do the books include folk stories, stories of children in other countries, poetry and rhymes, handmade books? 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Games and Puzzles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are there games and puzzles from other countries for the children to play? Do children play outdoor games from other countries? Do some of the materials have words printed in English and community languages or are some games played bilingually? 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are parents asked to share games they played as a child? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Food and Cooking					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you allow children to make/try different foods from different cultures at snack/lunch time? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do the cooking experiences encourage the children to experiment with foods other than those familiar to them? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you have cooking utensils from different countries for the children to use? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the enrolment form for your service have an area for families to write any dietary requirements for both allergy reasons and cultural/religious reasons? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are staff aware of diverse dietary restrictions and foods? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Group Time					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the children introduced to languages other than English? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are similarities between cultures and people highlighted, rather than differences? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do the pictures, puppets, stories, excursions, visitors etc reflect the multicultural nature of Australia? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the children encouraged to use their own languages to share aspects of their culture? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Festivals and Celebrations					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you know which celebrations are important to each family attending your service? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you incorporate festivals and celebrations on a regular basis in your program? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are festivals and celebrations based on activities that are meaningful to the children and involve them in an active way? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Management Committee					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the Management Committee budget for paid staff training and development? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is a summary of the policies and general information about the service available in community languages? 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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