

The TN Child Care Resource & Referral Network employs 15 Family Engagement Quality Coaches who are located statewide. We provide referral, education and training services to parents, families, child care educators and communities.



Global Diversity Awareness Month

Planes, trains, and automobiles are just some of the ways that the world has become more global and accessible. People can video call across the nation and across the world! October is Global Diversity Awareness Month, and it creates a great opportunity to celebrate the values of diverse minds and beliefs across the globe. This month can be a time for you and your child to “explore” the world together by learning about new cultures. Children begin to notice differences between people around 2 years old, so they are capable of recognizing their own unique culture as well as other people’s ways of life. Exploring other cultures through music, movies, and children’s books is a great way to help your child develop empathy and respect for cultures that are different from their own. This also allows children to understand their own unique culture and build a more positive self-image. There are many great children’s books that depict beautiful cultures around the world. YouTube also has several videos about other cultures. One video, by HiHo Kids, depicts a show-and-tell where preschoolers share with each other about their own unique cultures. If you are able, connecting with people in the community or virtually with friends from other countries can be a good way to introduce your child to the diversity in our world. This can also be a great way for you to learn and explore alongside your child, so enjoy the adventure and happy travels!

Resources:

[The Importance of Promoting Diversity in Early Childhood Programs](#) | [The Infant Crier \(mi-aimh.org\)](#)

[Cultural Diversity](#) | [Early Childhood Development \(unl.edu\)](#)

[GLOBAL DIVERSITY AWARENESS MONTH --October 2021](#) | [National Today](#)

[Kids Share Their Cultural Tradition](#) | [Show & Tell](#) | [Hiho Kids - YouTube](#)

[Kids Show and Tell - Family & Culture \(and try Jollibee!!\)](#) | [Show and Tell](#) | [HiHo Kids - YouTube](#)

Parenting Tip - Halloween

Halloween can still be a time for celebration even during a pandemic. Some tips, according to the CDC, to have a safe holiday are:

1. Gather and celebrate with household members or friends, who have been vaccinated
2. Have a virtual celebration and costume contest
3. Visit orchards or pumpkin patches and maintain an appropriate social distance
4. Include a mask with your costume that covers your nose and mouth
5. Visit homes of people that you know are well and vaccinated
6. Wash your hands after trick or treating and use hand sanitizer throughout the evening when appropriate

For homes that intend on handing out treats, create goodie bags with treats so families and children can easily grab a treat without having to touch the entire bowl. Also, wear a mask when greeting trick or treaters. These simple tips can help you and your trick or treaters still have a great holiday with minimal risks.

Family Activity

Native Americans grew corn, beans and squash for hundreds of years. This trio became a staple in many of their dishes. The trio was known as the "Three Sisters".



Ingredients

3 tablespoons butter	
4 cups chicken or vegetable stock	
1 cup onion, diced	
1 clove garlic, minced	
1 butternut or acorn squash, pre-baked and pureed	
1 teaspoon curry powder	
½ teaspoon salt	
½ cup yellow corn kernels	½ cup hominy, cooked
¼ teaspoon ground coriander	1 cup white beans, cooked
	1/8 teaspoon crushed red pepper

Directions

Melt butter in a large saucepan over medium-high heat.
Add onion and garlic, cook for 3 to 5 minutes or until tender.
Stir in spices, cook for 1 minute.
Add stock, corn, hominy, and beans, and bring to a boil.
Reduce heat to low and cook, stirring occasionally, for 15-20 minutes to develop flavors.
Stir in pureed squash, cook for 5 minutes or until heated through.
Serve warm with chives and plain yogurt as a garnish.

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The Book Corner

Say HELLO! by Rachel Isadora

Carmelita loves to greet everyone in her colorful neighborhood. There are people from so many different cultures! They all like to say hello too, so now Carmelita can say hello in Spanish, English, French, Japanese, and many other languages. And her dog, Manny? Well, he seems to understand everyone, and gives a happy "Woof!" wherever he goes. Caldecott Honor winner Rachel Isadora's book emphasizes the rich diversity of America's neighborhoods. This simple portrait of a child's day provides a great introduction to the joy of language and a fun read for families to explore multiple languages.

Visit Say Hello! | Rachel Isadora - YouTube to enjoy a read aloud!



To watch this book being read, visit: youtu.be/NaKmEEaEvWQ

Halloween Fun!

Candy and costumes are great, but there is more than one way to appreciate Halloween. Families can stay safe and have Halloween fun at home! Let the kids entertain the adults! Allow your child/children to transform their room into a haunted house. After setting up and decorating let your child lead you through their frightening room. Now that you have been scared crazy it is time to make and decorate Halloween cookies! Try different terrifying toppings like gummy worms and crunched up Oreos for dirt. Next, is pumpkin carving time. Kids can paint or draw fearsome faces on the pumpkins while the adults carve them. Make sure everyone gets to squish the pumpkin guts in their hands! Ewwwwwwww!
Celebrating Halloween as a family ensures everyone stays safe and healthy plus it is so much FUN!