



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

ECCE Activity Pack

Week 9 Term 1

Divali Facts for Children



Divali is a religious festival celebrated by Hindus around the world. It is also called the Festival of Lights, which symbolises the celebration of good over evil and light over darkness. Divali means an array of lamps (*deep*: lamp; *vali*: array). The observance is based on Hindu scripture, which details the return of Lord Rama, along with his wife Sita, from fourteen years of exile and his vanquishing the demon Rawan. In joyous celebration of the return of their king, the people of Ayodhya, the Capital of Rama, lit the kingdom with deyas.

Divali was brought to Trinidad and Tobago by Hindus who came as indentured labourers in 1845. In the past, Hindus celebrated this festival in a very small way. They made at least five deyas (small clay pots) per household, filled it with coconut oil or Ghee (clarified butter) and a wick made of wool was placed in it. Now, the lighting of **deyas** is a spectacular sight. Families, communities, even those who are not of the Hindu faith, participate in this enlightening and uplifting occasion. Before the lighting of deyas, Hindus undergo a period of fasting, and praying for the blessings of Mother Lakshmi on their homes. On the day Divali is observed, pujas or Hindu prayers, are made. Afterwards, there is a feast with delicious foods and sweet Indian delicacies are distributed to people in their community.



Remote Learning

The celebration of Divali in Trinidad and Tobago is marked as a National Holiday with numerous functions held to celebrate the occasion.

WEEKLY FOCUS

Learning Outcomes

Children will be given opportunities to:

- Build vocabulary: Divali, deya, festival, lights, oil, wick, food
- Develop respect and understanding for people of all backgrounds
- Develop fine motor skills (sticking, colouring, painting, cutting, sticking, moulding) and gross motor skills (running, hopping, jumping, stretching, dancing)
- Learn Mathematical concepts by counting, measuring, identifying shapes, sequencing, sorting and following directions



Materials: Bristol board/cardboard, paper, chalk, clay/playdough, sohari/banana leaf, soft toys, recycled fabric, decorations etc.



Time	Activity
9:00 - 9:30	Personal Awareness Preparation for the day
9:30 - 10:00	Circle Time (Online) Discussion about values: Reading stories
10:00 - 10:15	Individual Activity (Online)
10:15 - 10:30	Fruit Time
10:30 - 11:00	Outdoor Play
11:00 - 11:30	Stories/Rhymes
11:30 - 12:30	Lunch Prep Lunch Break & Clean up
12:30 - 12:45	Recall - Discussions based on the day's activities



Activities for three (3) and four (4) year old—PART 1

Monday Diwali Memory Game



- Create Diwali flash cards with pictures/drawings of deyas, star lights, fireworks, foods, Indian clothes etc. (each item should be on two separate cards)
- Discuss what the pictures/drawings are and how they are associated with Diwali
- Place each flashcard downwards on the table
- Instruct the child to take one card and try to find where the other matching card is on the table
- Match until all the cards are used

Tuesday Diwali Word Find (4 years old)

- Draw and cutout six deyas
- Write the individual letters for the word **Diwali** on each deya
- On another sheet of paper write the word Diwali and assist the child in identifying the letters
- Place the cut-out deyas with the letters face down on the table
- Allow the child to arrange the letters and form the word **Diwali**



Hindus believe that Diwali is the time when the goddess Lakshmi visits their home bringing wealth, peace and prosperity. Therefore, to make Lakshmi puja (prayer) more effective they clean and decorate the house because, "cleanliness is next to godliness" and positive energy will grace the house, which is clean, well lit and decorated.

Wednesday

Diwali Household Chores

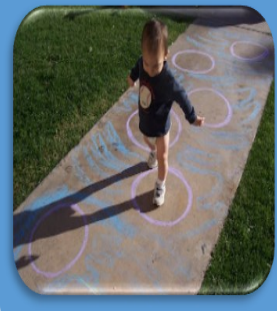
- Discuss the significance of house cleaning for Diwali
- Cut out chore pictures
- The child can choose the sequence of when each chore can be done
- Use the words: **first, second, next, after, last**



Physical Activity



Stepping Stones



- Cut out circles or draw circles on the ground outdoor to represent stepping stones
- Encourage the child to step, jump, or leap from one stepping stone to another
- Variation: Make lily pads instead of stepping stones, the child will squat down and leap from pad to pad like a frog

Physical Activity



Scramble dance

- Draw/stick pictures of any of the following: letters, numbers, colours, or animals on paper plates or cardboard
- Place the plates/cardboard face up on the ground
- Play music and encourage the child to dance until the music stops
- Shout out the name of one of the items drawn
- Shout the word **Scramble** after naming an item, the child has to run to that plate/cardboard
- If **Scramble** is not said, the child freezes until the music restarts



Physical Activity



All I Can Carry



- Create two bases with soft, light items such as small empty boxes, teddy bears, small pillows etc.
- Encourage the child to walk between the two bases, collecting a different item at each base
- The child can carry the items in his/her arms, or balance it on his/her head
- Variation: get the child to hop, skip, walk backward, or jump between bases



Activities for three (3) and four (4) year old—PART 2

Thursday Divali Dolls

- Discuss the clothing worn for Divali (use pictures from the newspaper/magazines or online)
- Encourage the child to describe the different types of clothing that is worn by the men and women



- The child can use any recyclable material to create a doll wearing traditional Indian clothing

My Divali Deya (3 years old)

- Discuss what is a deya and its purpose (front cover)
- Allow the child to mold playdough or clay in the shape of a small bowl to create a deya
- Decorate the deya using any available craft materials

Friday Divali Menu on a Sohari Leaf

- Briefly discuss the Hindu tradition of eating food on a sohari leaf



- Look at the picture and have the child name the traditional East Indian foods
- Allow the child to draw pictures or use picture cut-outs of any of the food he/she likes
- On a leaf (sohari, banana or any other, or paper cut-out), have the child stick the pictures of the food they chose to create a Divali menu
- Four-year-olds can be encouraged to write labels for each dish as seen in the picture

Physical Activity



The Landmine Game

- Set up a landmine in an open space by taping wadded up balls of newspaper to the floor
- Select partners, then blindfold one person
- The other person uses voice only prompts to get their partner from one end of the landmine to the other without "tripping" any of the mines
- Once across the field, partners switch rolls for the trip back to the other side



Physical Activity



Number Yoga Pose



- First engage in some simple breathing exercises

- Look at the picture and form the yoga pose for the corresponding number

ECCE RESOURCES

For All ECCE Activity Packs <https://www.moe.gov.tt/ecce-activity-packs-2/> they are free to download and print anytime at your convenience

YouTube link for radio programming <https://bit.ly/3Bxz2WO>

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Leading Stars ECCE
...bringing our classes closer to you

Monday to Friday on **91.1 Talk City**

9:00am (Circle Time)
10:45am (Story Telling)
and 12:30 (Recall)

WE'RE BACK!

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Colouring Page

