



June Theme Birthdays



In Strawberry's Surprise, Strawberry is very upset when she thinks no one has remembered her birthday. Birthdays are really important to us, especially when we are children and this provides a chance to find out more about what birthdays mean.

Try the activities below or some of your own.

Activity One: Birthday Calendar

This exercise helps young children to understand that birthdays of people they know are spaced throughout the year.

You can do this exercise either on a large scale as a class calendar, or small ones for individual children to create to show the birthdays in their own home.

There is a sample of a 'year free' calendar on the next page of this document which could be used as a starting point if you don't have one, but you may want to change the format to fit your display space.

For a class version, make a large calendar poster and use photographs of the children with their names and arrows to show where their birthdays are. Children can put on their own name and picture and as a group they can make art work to decorate the calendar which shows the seasons across the year, for example falling leaves around the autumn months or daffodils around March and April. This will connect the birthdays to the time of year they take place.

For individual calendars children can bring in photographs of people who are important to them - family or other people with whom they live, and close friends or neighbours. They will need a note from home with all the birthdays listed for different people. Older children can draw their own pictures of those people and write the name labels for them with support. Again the names and pictures should be attached to the date of the birthday and can be decorated to show the seasons if you prefer.

Activity Two – Birthdays around the world

We think of all birthdays as presents in the morning, party food and a birthday cake and song, because that's what we see all the time both here and on US television shows. But other countries have some fascinating traditions. Find out some of these traditions and use them to create related activities.

You could have a pretend party for a chosen culture and tradition. Older children could be assigned a country to pretend and present to the others, individually or in groups of two or three. You can prepare foods from different traditions. Children can choose their favourite country tradition and draw and write about it. As a class older children can write a little story of a child's birthday in a chosen country. The class can make a connection with a class in another country and ask each other about your birthdays. Drawings of different traditions can be attached them to a large world map.

There are some links to information about birthdays around the world in the weblinks section of this document.

Activity Three – Bear's Birthday

Have a birthday party for your class bear or doll or a toy which the children nominate. Help the children to work on all the elements of a successful birthday celebration, except without the expense! The children can design invitations, make party food and a cake from saltdough or junk modelling (or real food if you prefer), make decorations for the room, decide which party games to play, invite other toys to come to the party, make home made presents or draw the presents they would like Teddy to have etc. If it is a possibility for your setting you could actually invite parents to the party and the children could organise the party. This is an activity which can be as big or small as you like, but allows the children to use their creativity while understanding how much work goes into their own parties.

OUR BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	29	29	30	31	29	30	31											
APRIL							MAY							JUNE						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	29	30	31	29	30														
JULY							AUGUST							SEPTEMBER						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	29	30	31	29	30													
OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	29	30	29	30	31													