

MLEDP Programming with Regard to Holidays

Mt. Lebanon Extended Day Program follows the recommendation to provide a consistent engaging program and environment for children year round. It is especially beneficial to children during various hectic holidays to have a place of respite from the holiday focus. As a result, MLEDP has adopted the practice to not plan activities at holiday time related to any holiday. MLEDP is not anti-holiday celebrations, but rather in support of a reprieve of the busyness for a few hours each day in the life of the child.

Many holidays are connected to religious or cultural celebrations. With the increasing religious diversity in Mt. Lebanon and the ages of the children, MLEDP acknowledges it's importance and has decided to leave the religious values and instruction to each family.

Additionally, there is ethnic and family diversity as well, which means holiday acknowledgements and celebrations may not happen at all or be acknowledged differently by some families. To ensure that all children are comfortable in our setting, again, we do not plan specific activities or celebrations about holidays. If children at a center discuss celebrations with their friends or do their own drawings, for example, you do not have to stop them from doing those activities.

MLEDP values the understanding and exploration of cultural diversity through activities, books and guests. It is important the staff consider incorporating fun and enriching activities that foster ongoing respect for a variety of cultures, that don't coincide with a holiday.

Therefore, in summary, to be clear, staff should not plan activities or celebrations related to any holiday.