

Early Years Foundation Stage

Unit title: Celebrating Special Times

What happens on Guru Nanak's Birthday?

Context

- Sikhs celebrate Guru Nanak's birthday every year
- Guru Nanak was the first of the ten human Sikh Gurus
- Sikhs remember stories about Guru Nanak and his teachings

Key underlying ideas/concepts

- **Special people:** remembering special people
- **Special teachings:** thinking about special teachings followed by people in our community

Links to Early Learning Goals

- Personal, social and emotional development: Behaviour and self-control; Making relationships
- Knowledge and understanding of the world: Cultures and beliefs

Main elements of the unit

- **Who was Guru Nanak?**

Suggestions for practical activities

Look at a picture of Guru Nanak

- Talk with the children about the picture: what do they notice – Guru Nanak is often shown with eyes half closed in meditation; what kind of a person does the picture show?

- **Tell a story about Guru Nanak**
Use Story Sack

Read the story 'A Birthday to Celebrate'

- Talk about how the story shows Guru Nanak was special: eg. how he talked with his teachers, how the cobra shaded him
- Discuss Guru Nanak's teaching about how we should treat others: eg as brothers and sisters, tell the truth, be kind to animals

- **Make links between the story and the children's experiences**

- Ask the children to think about ways in which they can treat others as brothers and sisters, tell the truth and be kind to others
- Make a collage showing examples of the children's ideas

Key questions to ask

- Who was Guru Nanak?
- Why is Guru Nanak important to Sikhs?
- What did Guru Nanak teach?
- What can I learn from Guru Nanak's teaching?

Story sack

- Picture of Guru Nanak
- Storybook: Guru Nanak's Birthday: Lynne Broadbent and John Logan (RMEP)