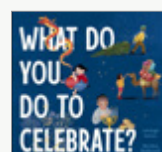


Top 10 diverse holiday stories for children

Looking for a way to explore the diversity of festive season celebrations with children? Expand your service's book collection with Lara's top 10 holiday stories from around the world! From cookies to dosas, this collection dishes up the array of ways children and families celebrate the end of one year and the beginning of another.

LARA SPEIRS, Inclusion Professional,
Community Child Care Association



1. What Do You Do to Celebrate?

Author: Ashleigh Barton

Illustrator: Martina Heiduczek

Age range: 4+ years

Content: Belonging, diverse belief systems

Created by a bestselling children's book duo, *What Do You Do to Celebrate?* explores holiday celebrations around the world, focusing on traditions at the end and start of a new year.



2. A World of Cookies for Santa

Author: M. E. Furman

Illustrator: Susan Gal

Age range: 4–7 years

Content: Holiday celebrations around the world, baking

A World of Cookies for Santa showcases the diverse range of biscuits left out for Santa across the world on Christmas Eve. Includes easy to follow along recipes and the history of each sweet treat!



3. Soulful Holidays

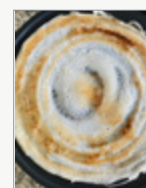
Author: Ciara L. Hill

Illustrator: Christian Krabbe

Age range: 5–8 years

Content: Kwanzaa, Christmas, rhyme, BIPOC central characters

Did you know that many people, particularly in the United States, celebrate both Kwanzaa and Christmas? Kwanzaa is an annual celebration of Black culture, with African-American activist origins. Using rhyme, *Soulful Holidays* offers a joyful glimpse of how some families experience the end-of-year period.



4. Queen of the Hanukkah Dosas

Author: Pamela Ehrenberg

Illustrator: Anjan Sarkar

Age range: 4–7 years

Content: Indian culture, Jewish faith, multicultural families, Hanukkah

Queen of the Hanukkah Dosas is a comedy book, following cheeky Indian-Jewish siblings. Learn about some of the holiday traditions from both cultures and how this multicultural family combines them – positively challenge children to think beyond a single representation of faith.



5. The Christmas Truck

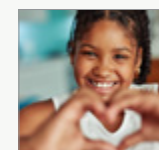
Author: J. B. Blankenship

Illustrator: Cassandre Bolan

Age range: 4–8 years

Content: LGBTQIA+ central characters, diverse family types

The Christmas Truck emphasises the importance of love, giving and kindness during the holiday time. Come on a journey with a Papa, Dad, Grandma and their child as they work together to help out a stranger in need.



6. Holiday Love Around the World

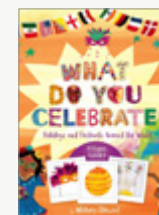
Author: LaShaun Jackson

Illustrator: Tyrus Goshay

Age range: 3+

Content: BIPOC central characters, international celebrations, diverse languages

Holiday Love Around the World follows siblings on a journey around the globe, celebrating cultural diversity. The story hones in on the universal themes of love, family and celebration to offer a taste of each country's unique festivities.



7. What Do You Celebrate? Holidays and Festivals Around the World

Author: Whitney Stewart

Illustrator: Christiane Engel

Age range: 5–9 years

Content: Different festivities around the world

What Do You Celebrate? introduces us to the different customs, music, dance, food and languages of 14 global festivals – including Fastelavn, Purim, Holi, Eid al-Fitr, Halloween, Day of the Dead and more! Includes some fun and tasty activities.



8. 'Twas Nochebuena

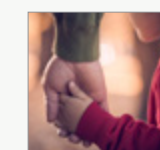
Author: Roseanne Greenfield Thong

Illustrator: Sara Palacios

Age range: 3–5 years

Content: Bilingual families, Spanish language

'Twas Nochebuena is a bilingual story, told in English and Spanish, of food, family and fun. The book uses rhyme and rhythm to tell the tale of a Latino family at Christmas time. This is the perfect book for introducing young readers to Spanish!



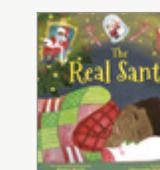
9. Welcome Comfort

Author/Illustrator: Patricia Polacco

Age range: 4–8 years

Content: Foster care, diverse family types

Welcome Comfort tells the story of a foster child navigating Christmas for the first time without their birth family. It informs young readers of the sorrow and conflict foster children can feel during holiday times, as well as the deep importance of friendship.



10. The Real Santa

Author: Nancy Redd

Illustrator: Charnelle Pinkney Barlow

Age range: 4–8 years

Content: BIPOC central characters, cultural identity

The Real Santa sets out to answer the question, what does Santa really look like? Does he look like you, or like me? Through the eyes of a young child, the book explores concepts of cultural identity and self-acceptance, and the importance of racial representation.