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Celebrating Olivia's birthday – Language awareness

ACTIVITY 2: WHICH HOLIDAY IS IT?

Objectives/ aims of activity (children will be able to):

- identify similarities and differences between languages by comparing lyrics of popular celebration songs
- recognise typical greetings in different languages

Activity steps

- 1) The teacher plays to/sings with the children Happy Birthday song and We Wish You a Merry Christmas.
- 2) The teacher asks the children when we sing these songs, if they can sing them in other languages, etc.
- 3) The teacher sticks a picture of a birthday cake to one side of the playroom and a picture of a Christmas tree to another.
- 4) Then he/she plays/sings/recites the Happy Birthday song, or We Wish You a Merry Christmas in a different language and children need to run to the right picture on the wall.
- 5) They can talk about how they guessed the holiday (with music it is easier), how the language sounds, do they recognise any words, etc.

Resources needed to carry out the activity

- songs in different languages (check:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oRYqx4yR6Oc> and
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGyQw0mpMA0&list=RDpGyQw0mpMA0&start_radio=1)
- pictures of a birthday cake and a Christmas tree

Approximate time indication for activity: 20 minutes



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Links to other activities:

- LET'S SING TOGETHER: BIRTHDAY SONGS FROM HOME (Intercultural awareness and understanding, Story 7, activity 2)
- SOUNDS OF DIFFERENT LANGUAGES (Language awareness, Story 3, activity 3)