



# COLOR CELEBRATIONS

*When we engage in what we are naturally suited to do, our work takes on the quality of play and it is play that stimulates creativity.*

Linda Naiman



## Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns by Hena Khan

*Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns is a Muslim book of colors. With breathtaking illustrations and informative text, it magnificently captures the world of Islam celebrating its beauty and traditions for the youngest readers.*

### Explore the Book Ideas:

**Ages: 3 to 6 years**

- Before you read the story, be sure to check the glossary to make sure that you're pronouncing the Arabic words correctly.
- Help the children to make color associations. When they see the color blue, what do they think of? What do they see in their lives that is the color blue?
- Vocabulary: Talk about the new words being introduced. What is a mosque? Is a mosque similar to a building that you've seen or visited?
- Talk about family traditions. What's the same between your children's family traditions and those of the girl in the story?
- Point out what is similar to our everyday life on each page, i.e. shopping, grandparents, giving gifts. Also talk about what is different, i.e. Islam families make pretty henna designs on their hands and many women paint their fingernails.

### Playful Activity Ideas:

- 1) Create Fanoos of different colors to hang in your space.  
**Kit Supplies:** Make a Fanoos Step-by-Step Directions, cardstock, colored tissue paper, hole puncher, glue  
Supplies you can provide: scissors, rulers, pencils
- 2) Serve dates during snack time.  
**Kit Supplies:** Date recipes
- 3) Work with your children to create a Zakat project by collecting money (pennies) to give to someone in need. You could suggest the Crisis Center for families who have very little food to eat.  
**Kit Supplies:** Zakat collection jar
- 4) Choose a Celebration that all children are familiar with and create your own Colors of (insert name of Celebration) book. For example, if you chose Christmas one page might be "Green is the color of Christmas trees". Write/draw/paste pictures into your book and add it to your library.  
**Kit Supplies:** blank books
- 5) Henna Hands: Show the children the sample Henna Hands included in the kit and talk about what the designs look like. Then have the children outline their own hands on cardstock and cut out their hands. Next let the children create their own Henna Hands using fine tip markers.  
**Kit Supplies:** cardstock, fine-tip markers, samples of henna hands



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*When we treat children's play as seriously as it deserves, we are helping them feel the joy that's to be found in the creative spirit. It's the things we play with and the people who help us play that make a great difference in our lives.*

Fred Rogers



## My Colors, My World by Maya Christina Gonzalez

*My Colors, My World is a powerful bi-lingual portrayal of a Latino child, her family, and her immediate environment. It's also an engaging way to introduce young children to basic concepts of colors in both English and Spanish*

**Ages: 3 to 6 years**

### Explore the Book Ideas:

- Before you read the story, find someone to teach you to read it in Spanish so you can share the story with your children in both Spanish and English. Or maybe you have a parent or friend who could come and read it aloud with you?
- Teach your children the color names in Spanish so they can respond with the Spanish words for each color with you.

### Playful Activity Ideas:

- 1) Create a nature painting outside or looking out the windows. You could also ask children to imagine what the mountains would look like, or the beach.

**Kit Supplies:** art paper, watercolor paints, brushes

- 2) Painted toast! Have the children create their own designs on white bread, toast away, and you've got an artistic snack made by the kids!

**Kit Supplies:** activity directions, food coloring, paint brushes

Supplies You Need to Provide: white bread, low-fat milk, toaster, clear plastic glasses

