



AZPS, Early Years
Newsletter
May 2021

Contact us @:

0505543165

6 ways to make EID occasion feel special at home



1. Put up a crescent moon tree

One of the newest trends to pop up is a Ramadan crescent moon tree. It's an artificial tree that comes in a number of sizes and colours, with its defining feature being its distinct moon shape. As with a Christmas tree, it can be decorated in a variety of ways for the occasion, and is typically being used during Ramadan and Eid. Parents can also use the tree as an example to help further explain these holy times to young children.

2. Decorate the rest of your house

Is it really a holiday without decoration? If you're someone who skips doing this, maybe opt to try something new.

Expand on your crescent moon tree, and buy some ready-made items or create your own decorations at home. The more the children can be involved the better.

My husband and I used to decorate the house with balloons after our children went to sleep on the last night of Ramadan. We loved watching the element of surprise on their faces in the morning. However, now that they are older, they love helping out.

3. Prepare a special Eid meal together

The first main meal on the first day of Eid can be a late breakfast for some, or an early lunch for others. Whatever your family tradition is, allow the children to take part. Ask them for what they'd like to have and make preparations so you can prepare the food together.

Even if you decide to order in after a month of at-home iftars, you could make plans to prepare dessert together. It's a good way to keep them engaged as an Eid day at home will feel long.

4. Make a treasure hunt

What's Eid without games? Organise a few games that the children can play where the whole family can be involved.

One idea is to create a treasure hunt, where the children have to look for clues that would lead them to treats. The more clues you leave, the longer the game lasts and the more fun it is.

5. Arrange a big family video chat

Eid can be difficult if you are spending it without your extended family. However, thanks to technology, everyone can still stay connected through video calls.

A great way to allow children to feel the Eid spirit is to arrange for a Zoom or other video chat where they can talk to their grandparents and cousins, even if they are miles apart or in different time zones.

6. Virtual Eid gifts or Eidi

Finally, and it's almost too obvious to mention, but do not forget Eidi, or gifts given on Eid. If this is your child's first time fasting, or completing a whole month of fasting, acknowledge their accomplishment.

But remember to only give gifts to those in your household to avoid the spread of the coronavirus. Also don't give cash: opt for an e-voucher instead.





Is this fake news?

This is a handy guide designed to help you support your child in developing their critical thinking and digital literacy skills when spotting fake information online. Read the guide here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/tackling-fake-news-misinformation-advice-for-parents/>

Minecraft continues to remain popular with it being played by 112 million people every month. It is a great learning tool and is used in schools to teach skills such as planning, problem solving, simulation and 3D modelling. Minecraft is rated as PEGI 7, which means it is suitable for players above 7 years; however, the PEGI rating does not consider the chat facility available within Minecraft. The chat facility can be switched off by following these steps:

- click 'options'
- select multiplayer settings
- click on chat choose shown, hidden or commands only.

If you choose to keep the chat facility on then make sure your child knows what to do if anything upsetting happens.

In addition, protect your child's privacy by using a nickname (don't include their age/birth year) and also chat to your child to make sure that when playing online they know not to tell others personal information such as where they live, what school they go to and their age. More information is available here:

<https://parentinfo.org/article/staying-safe-on-minecraft>

WhatsApp privacy settings

Are yours and your child's (if using) privacy settings set up appropriately? For example, you can set that only 'my contacts' can add you to groups and even add exceptions to this rule.

Android device:

<https://faq.whatsapp.com/en/android/23225461/?category=5245250>

iPhone device:

<https://faq.whatsapp.com/en/iphone/28041111>



Instagram restrict mode

Instagram have introduced a new feature that allows users to restrict another user. You could restrict somebody (a bully for example) which means they will not be able to see when you are online or if you've read their messages. Also, only you (and that user) will be able to see their comments on your post. The great thing about this feature is that they won't know that you have 'restricted' them. This is different to blocking (when you block somebody, you no longer see anything they do on Instagram and they don't see anything you do either).

