

# Chat, Play, Share

[Free Chinese New Year \(Lunar New Year\)  
Songs and Rhymes for Circle Time - Living  
Montessori Now](#)

## It's Chinese New Year!

See fireworks and dragons  
In red and gold  
Say hello to the new year  
and goodbye to the old.  
Give red envelopes  
Good wishes and cheer  
What holiday is it?  
It's Chinese New Year!

## **Kung Hei Fat Choi**

(Happy New Year!)

恭喜發財

Find out more about preparing for Chinese and Lunar New Year. Talk about how you got ready for Christmas and New Year and compare with the Chinese festival.

CBeebies Chinese and Lunar New Year

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/chinese-new-year>

Watch a clip of Chinese New Year Celebrations. Make up a dance and move to the music. Use a sheet or scarves and pretend to be the dragon. Listen to the story about how the animals of the Chinese Zodiac decided who would have which year named after them. Can you retell the story? Put the animals in order-first, second, third etc. The story starts with the animals arguing. Talk about things you might have disagreements about and discuss how to behave in such situations. Remember to talk things through calmly, listening to the other person's point of view. Do you think the animal's solution was fair?

## Chat Play Share...Other ideas you could try....

Share a story together about the Chinese New Year and chat about the pictures and story. Also read some non-fiction books to find out more information. Examples of stories:

- Maisy's Chinese New Year by Lucy Cousins
- The Great Race: Story of the Chinese Zodiac by Ling Lee (follow along in Simplified Chinese, Pinyin, and English)
- Dragon Dance: A Chinese New Year (lift the flap) by Joan Holub
- What do you celebrate? By Whitney Stewart

## Spring Cleaning

Help with spring cleaning around the house and in the garden. Sort things into piles of items that are the same. Match pairs of gloves and socks together. Use clothes pegs to hold them together. Count how many you have. Stretch up high to dust things above your head and bend down low to pick things up off the floor. Start spring cleaning in your bedroom. Is the bookcase tidy?



## A Chinese Banquet

Prepare a meal to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Make paper lanterns as decorations and some lucky red envelopes to give as presents.

Try some Chinese food like noodles. Can you use chopsticks and get the food into your mouth! If you don't have any chop sticks, try wrapping your noodles around your fork. Make your own egg fried rice and encourage children to chop their favourite vegetables with supervision. Discuss making a shopping list of the vegetables you need to buy. As well as spring onions and peppers, try something new that you are unfamiliar with like Pak Choi in your stir fry. Talk about how to set the table and what utensils you need. Pretend to be at a restaurant and write a menu for your meal. Can you name the ingredients and identify the initial letter of each item, e.g. 'n' for noodles.



Why not try your hand at Chinese writing. Use a paint brush to make the symbols. You can also make up some new ones for yourself!

<https://www.china-family-adventure.com/chinese-writing-symbols.html>