

8 Top Tips for running a successful Celebration Event

#1 - Plan and think about space:

- Where will you hold your Celebration Event? Can you have the school hall or will you use the classroom? A bigger space is better as you'll have adults invited to come and see the children build, as well as the usual spread of children and brick!
- Could you combine your Celebration Event with another local school? This will make it feel like a really special event and give the children the opportunity to see what other children have built.

#2 – Think about when you will hold your Celebration Event:

- The Celebration Event is the final chapter in the Discover journey and as such should be held after all the other sessions. Here the children will accumulate all of their previous learning throughout the programme in one big showcase so it's important to plan it for after you expect to have finished the rest of the sessions.
- When would be the most convenient time to invite them in – an afternoon or after school perhaps? Do what works best for your school and your adults.
- Make sure you give plenty of notice to adults so that you have as many people attend as possible!

#3 – Invite the adults:

- Invite the children's parents/carers, grandparents, aunts and uncles, family friends, the wider school and local community – whoever you can think of, they'll all love to see the children's work at a Celebration Event and it will make it feel really special for the children.

#4 – Plan the Celebration Event session:

- You don't have to have a set plan, but a rough idea of how you want the Celebration Event to run will help it run smoothly. A good idea is to use the Team Meeting guide session 10 plan, but logistics of running it could be:
 - Have the children sit in their groups around the room with their LEGO® Discover sets
 - Explain that the Celebration Event will include a build and adults will be walking round to see all the wonderful ideas the children have, so they will be prepared to talk to adults as they are building
 - Give a time limit for the main build and explain what they are required to build
 - After the main build, get everyone to stop and set a special challenge for the children – use your imagination or the Team Meeting guide for inspiration – and explain it clearly
 - Give a time limit to complete the special challenge
 - Allow time for the children to walk around and look at other team's builds
 - Pack the LEGO® Discover sets away and get the children to all sit together for the certificates
 - Call each child or team up to receive their certificates with a big round of applause

#5 – Have a ‘High Five’ line:

- Ask all the adults present to stand in a circle around the room and as each child collects their certificate they go along the line of adults and receive lots and lots of High Fives!

#6 – Encourage adults to take a step back:

- Parents and other adults that come along to the Celebration Event will no doubt want to join in and help the children – it’s such an appealing and fun event, it’s easy to understand! BUT it’s really important to remember that the Celebration Event and the *FIRST*[®] LEGO[®] League Discover programme is all about the children and their learning journey, so encourage your adults to take a step back and let the children work through their builds themselves. Make this explicit when you introduce the Celebration Event so that adults know what is expected. Instead, you could encourage them to talk to the children, use open questions and supportive positive language to support them in overcoming any difficulties.

#7 – Display any work from the programme –

- Have the children’s Engineering Notebooks on display to show the adults and encourage the children to talk about what they have learnt on their journey
- Display any photos from previous sessions around the room
- If you have recorded learning on posters or with post-its of the children’s views/comments throughout the programme, put those up on display too!

#8 – Make it fun!

- The Celebration Event is all about having fun and celebrating the children’s builds, ideas and newly developed STEM skills
- You could have music playing while the children build or include extra activities to fill time
- Try and deliver the Celebration Event with lots of energy and enthusiasm!