

KITAB WORLD

GUIDE TO FUN DIWALI STORYTIMES

1. INTRODUCTION

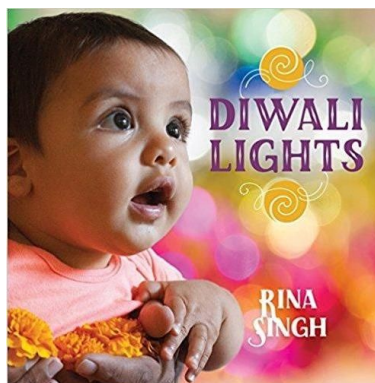
Diwali or Deepavali is one of the biggest and most celebrated festivals in South Asia, especially in North India. It will be celebrated on **November 7, 2018** this year.

The word “Diwali” comes from the Sanskrit words, *deepa* meaning “light” and *vali* meaning “row” so together, its’ “row of lights” or the “festival of lights”. There are various legends about the origins of Diwali. The main one relates to the Hindu epic, Ramayana. Diwali was the day Lord Rama returned after his 14 year exile and his victory over the evil Ravana. It symbolizes the victory of good over evil. People clean and decorate their houses with rangolis (an art form that create patterns using colored flour, flowers or other materials) and diyas (small clay lamps). On Diwali, Hindus also pray to Goddess Lakshmi for wealth and happiness, and celebrate with food and sweets with friends and family.

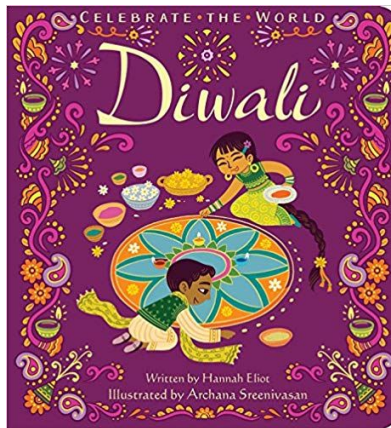
Here’s a [Diwali Poster](#) which shares some interesting facts about Diwali.

2. CHOOSE A DIWALI BOOK:

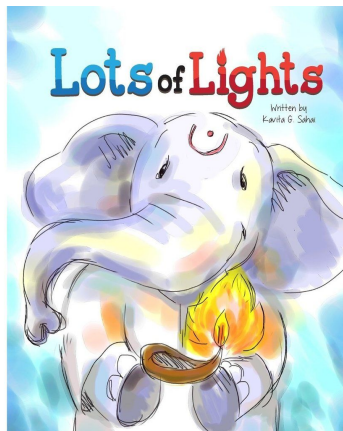
No storytime would be complete without a couple of entertaining books! We’ve selected some simple yet delightful stories that introduce young ones to Diwali. With stories that share the traditions as well as *mithai* (sweets), fireworks and *diyas*, these wonderful tales are perfect for “read-alouds”. As with any holiday, they highlight the age-old customs behind the festivals as well as build-up the excitement of Diwali.



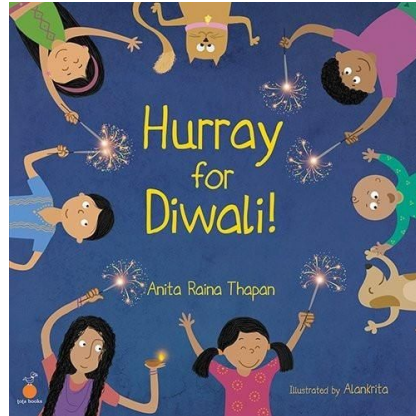
[Diwali Lights](#): This board book serves as a great introduction to the littlest ones about the joy and celebration of Diwali! (Ages: 2+, \$10)



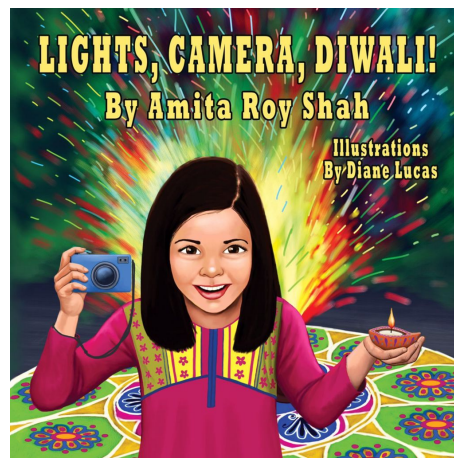
[Diwali \(Celebrate the World\)](#): Lovely visuals and traditions of the how Diwali is celebrated light up board book! (Ages: 2+, \$10)



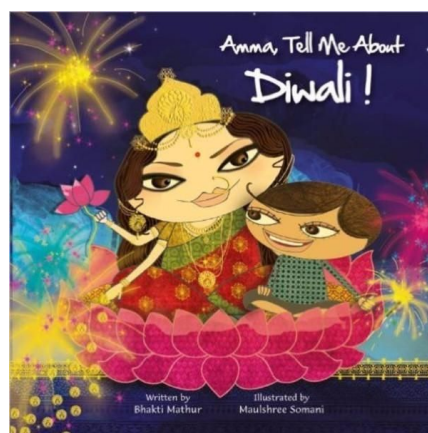
[Lots of Lights](#) is perfect for toddlers and brings light and cheer and the colorful spirit of Diwali to your door! (Ages: 2+, \$10)



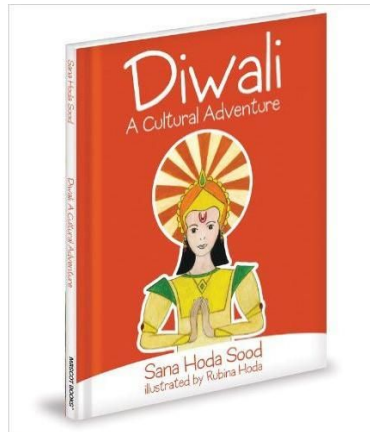
[Hurray for Diwali](#) is a lovely story of the magic through the day to get to the fun parts and festivities ahead. (Ages 3+, \$9.99)



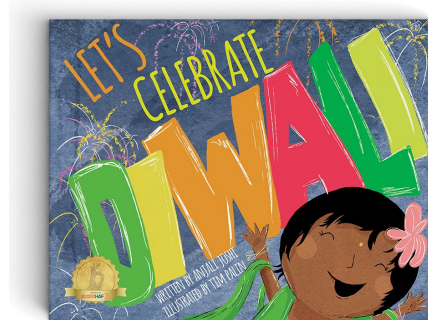
[Lights, Camera, Diwali](#) Smile! It's time to capture all the fun-filled activities throughout the day with Dia and her camera! (Ages: 3+, \$12.99)



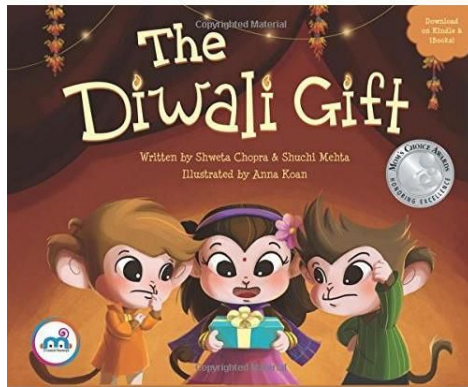
[Amma Tell Me About Diwali](#) written in rhyming verse, sets the stage for the remembering why we celebrate Diwali as well as makes the excitement (yes, and firecrackers) in the air feel so real! (Ages 3+, \$14.50)



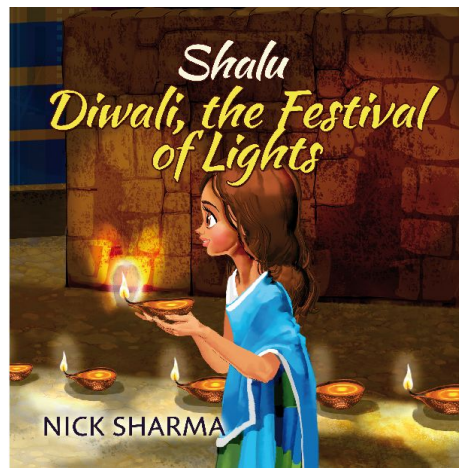
[Diwali A Cultural Adventure](#) tells the story behind Diwali in a wonderful an age-appropriate way that engages young and old. It ends with a very positive message for the young ones to remember! (Ages 4+, \$14.95)



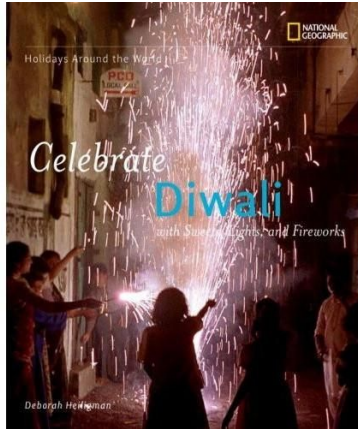
[Let's Celebrate Diwali](#): Join Harini as she learns about Hindu, Sikh, Jain, and Buddhist Diwali traditions. (Ages 3+, \$9.95)



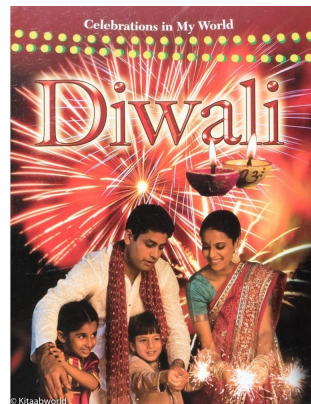
The Diwali Gift: Read about the three curious monkeys solve a mystery while learning about Diwali traditions of sparklers, diyas and rangolis! Get your exclusive autographed copy at KitaabWorld! (Ages 3+, \$16.99)



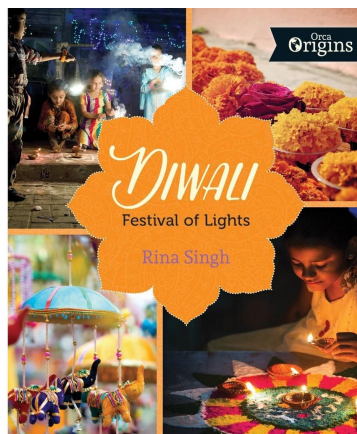
Diwali, The Festival of Lights shares the meaning of Diwali and shows you the how one light can guide you back home. (Ages 3+, \$15)



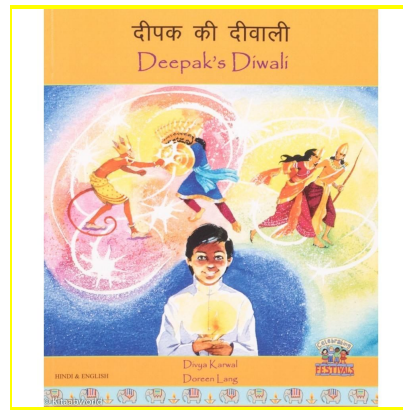
[Holidays around the World: Celebrate Diwali](#) brings to life Diwali's traditions, food, and celebration rituals for those who are not so familiar with them. A great book to share with a school teacher or a friend to introduce them to the joy of Diwali. (Ages 3+, \$6.95)



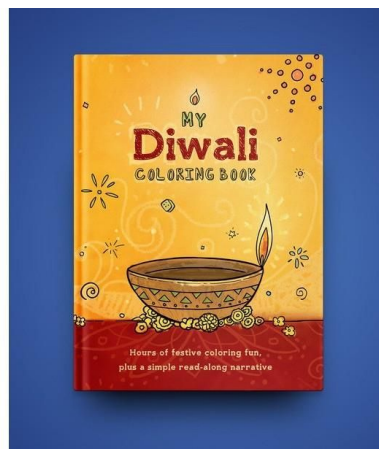
[Celebrations in my World - Diwali](#) Learn how Diwali is the triumph of good over evil. This budget friendly and authentic book makes a great donation to a school or public library to spread some Diwali love! (Ages: 2+, \$8.95)



Diwali, Festival of Lights: Published just a few months ago, this book is the encyclopedia on Diwali. While it won't work great for a read-aloud, it has a number of real-life pictures to share with children, recipes of Indian sweets, and stories of different children around the world celebrating Diwali. It's a must-have in every library! (Ages: 2+, \$24.95)



Bilingual pick: **Deepak's Diwali** - Even though Deepak's Diwali doesn't start off just right, it ends with a bang! Read this book in English and Hindi.



Activity Book: A fun coloring book which shares the Diwali story and provides hands-on fun is **My Diwali Coloring Book**! (Ages 2+, \$6.50)

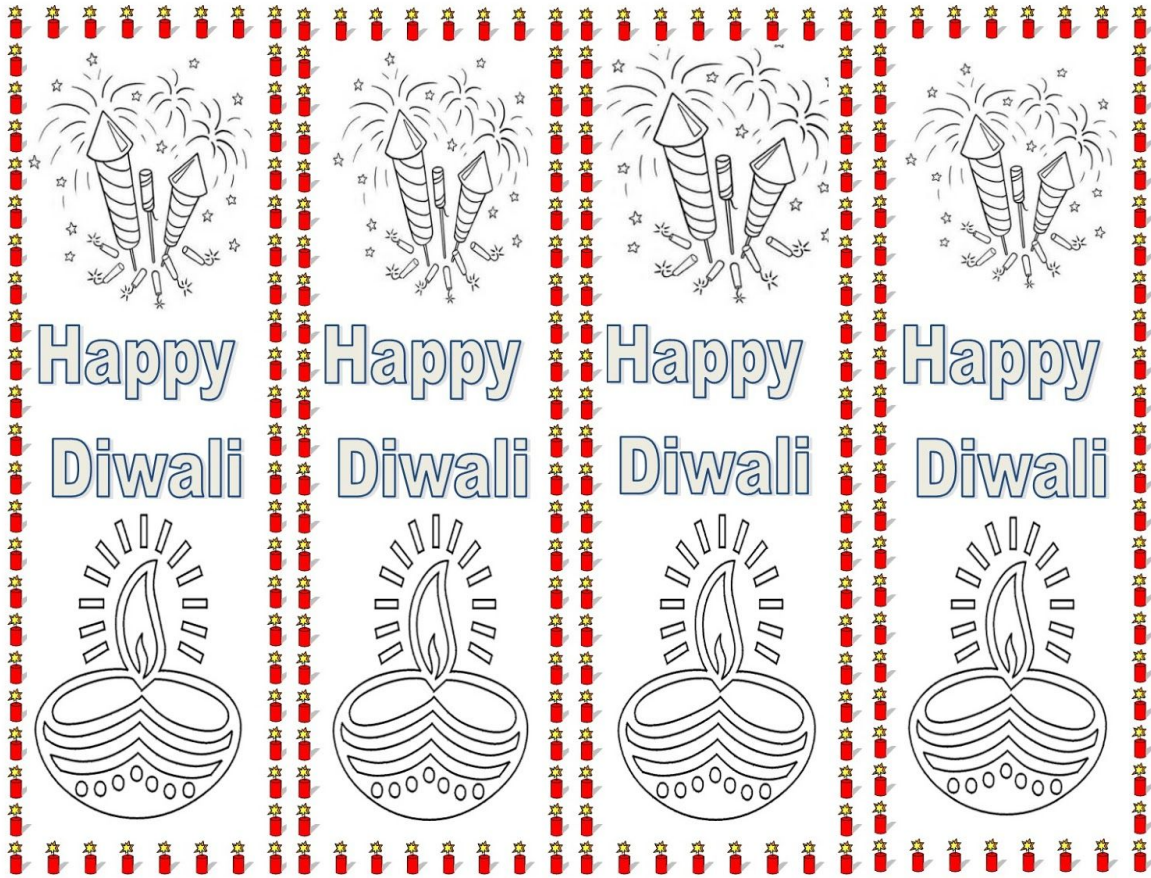
**USE CODE DIWALI10 TO GET A 10% DISCOUNT
ON ANY OF THESE DIWALI BOOKS AT KITAABWORLD.COM!**

3. ART AND CRAFT IDEAS:

Kids love to get their hands busy and these arts and crafts activities make great take-home presents as well.

Here are a few simple art and craft ideas:

Diwali BookMarks:



Adjust and print the above image on A4 size paper. Each print out yields four bookmarks. Hand out one bookmark per child. Have them color and decorate their bookmarks with crayons, glitter or sequins.

Once they have completed the decoration, punch a hole on a corner of the bookmark and pass a golden thread through it. This is what your of the completed bookmark should look like:



Diya Crafts:

Diyas are used very commonly for Diwali decorations. Buy diyas from a local Indian store, and have the children decorate them with glitter glue.

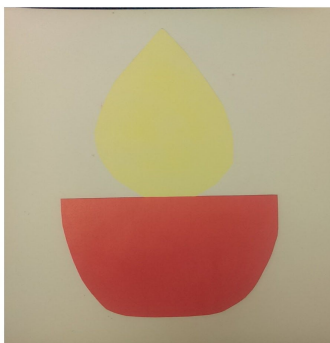
Supplies :

Paper	Beads
Sequins	Thread
Glitter	Glue

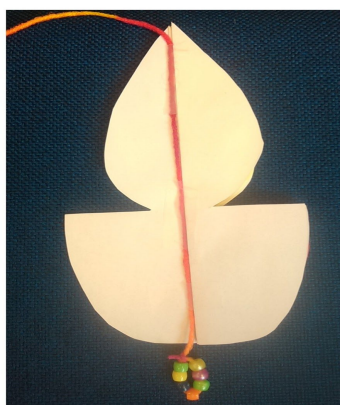
You can also make a 3-D paper diya using the below instructions:

Instructions:

1. Print out following picture on colored paper. You will need four copies per diya.



2. For one of the diyas, glue a beaded thread on the back..



3. Fold all four images lengthwise in half and glue together.



Your completed diya looks like this:



Rangoli:

Another common tradition is creating a rangoli outside your house. A rangoli can be made with colored powders, flowers, lentils and various other materials.

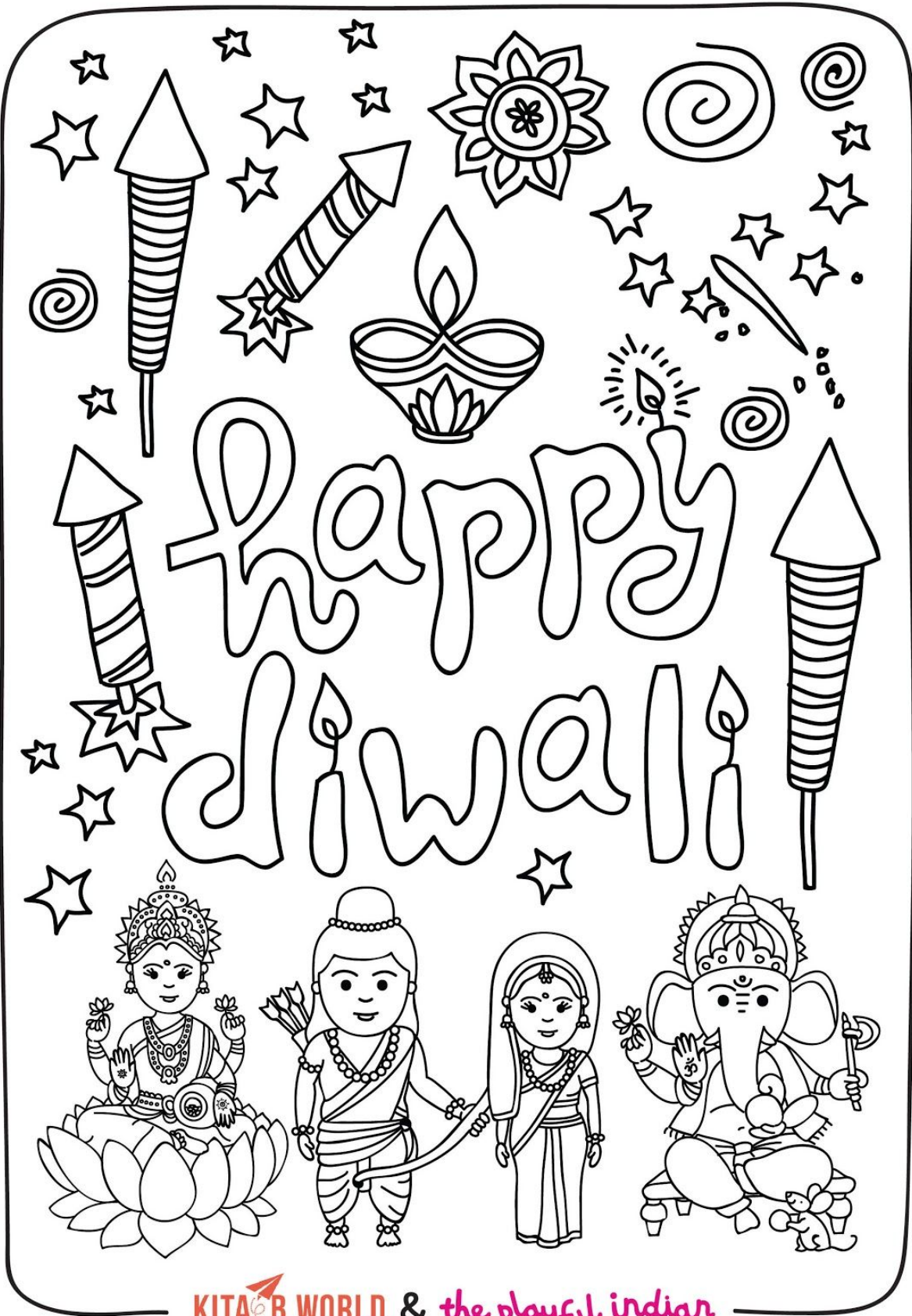
Here's an idea for a kid-friendly colorful community rangoli:

1. Buy shredded or crinkled colorful tissue paper.
2. Make a big rangoli pattern on the floor with the help of masking tape.
3. Tape few pieces of this shredded paper where you want them.
4. You can ask all the attendees to make a line and start filling paper starting from center.
Work from inner to outward circle

For more craft ideas for Diwali, go [here](#).

Coloring Page:

Thanks to the [Playful Indian](#), here's a coloring page you can print and distribute for kids during the Diwali storytime:



4. MUSIC/RHYMES

Play some Indian instrumental music in background as people come in and settle down.

When you're ready to begin, you can start with this song from Music Together to welcome everyone:

*Hello everybody, so glad to see you!
Hello everybody, we're so glad to see you!
Hello to ____, so glad to see you!
Hello to ____, so glad to see you too.
Hello to the ____, so glad to see you! (Use moms, or dads, if present)
Hello to the ____, so glad to see you too! (Use nana, nani, grandma, if present)
Hello everybody, so glad to see you!
Hello everybody, we're so glad to see you.*

After singing it in English the first time, you can replace "Hello" with "Namaste" for Hindi, "Kem-cho" for Gujarati, "Sasriya Kaal" for Punjabi and corresponding words in any other South Asian language that you know.

After this, you can sing the following Diwali song in Hindi on the "Wheels on the Bus" tune:

*दीवाली में सब जलाए (Diwali mein sab jalaein)
दीप दीप दीप (Deep, Deep, Deep)
दीप दीप दीप (Deep, Deep, Deep)
दीप दीप दीप (Deep, Deep, Deep)
दीवाली में सब जलाए दीप दीप दीप..... सारी रात
(Diwali mein sab jalaein Deep Deep Deep..... Saari Raat)*

*दीवाली में दीप करें (Diwali mein deep Kare)
जलक जलक जलक (Jalak, Jalak, Jalak)
जलक जलक जलक (Jalak, Jalak, Jalak)
जलक जलक जलक (Jalak, Jalak, Jalak)
दीवाली में दीप करें जलक जलक जलक.... सारी रात
(Diwali mein Deep Kare Jalak, Jalak, Jalak.. Saari Raat)*

*दीवाली में पटाखे शोर मचायें (Diwali Mein Patake Shor Machaein)
भम भम भम (Bhum, Bhum, Bhum)
भम भम भम (Bhum, Bhum, Bhum)
भम भम भम (Bhum, Bhum, Bhum)
दीवाली में पटाखे शोर मचायें भम भम भम सारी रात
(Diwali Mein Patake Shor Machaein Bhum Bhum Bhum.... Saari Raat)*

5. FUN IDEAS FOR DIWALI SWEETS

No Diwali celebration is complete without *mithai* (sweets)! During Diwali, the markets are filled with mounds of colourful *mithais*. People give *mithai* to friends, family and neighbors, like gifts are exchanged during Christmas.

One of the favorite kids *mithai's* is *laddu*. They are ball-shaped sweets of different types that are typically made of flour, milk, cream, spices, nuts, sugar and other ingredients that vary by recipe. Please remember to keep in mind nut, wheat, dairy and other allergies.

Here is the recipe of *nariyal ka laddu* or coconut *laddu*.



Ingredients:

1. 1 tbsp *ghee* (clarified butter, use unsalted butter as an option)
2. 2 cups dried powdered coconut (unsweetened)
3. 1/2 tsp cardamom powder
4. 1 can condensed milk

To Decorate:

1. Dried rose petals
2. Crushed pistachios
3. Dried coconut powder

Steps:

1. In a heavy bottomed pan, add *ghee* and then the grated coconut. Roast for a minute.
2. Add condensed milk and cardamom powder. Cook over low flame stirring it continuously for about 5 minutes.
3. When the mixture leaves the sides of the pan, remove from flame and let it cool down for about 15 minutes.
4. Apply *ghee* on your palm and shape the mixture into small *laddus*.

Let the kids roll each *laddu* in into a decoration of their choice. Make sure the decoration coats well onto the *laddu*. Experiment with other decorations.

This recipe was sweetly contributed by Anu Sehgal, the Founder and CEO of [The Culture Tree](#).

Other recipe ideas:

[Diya and Rangoli cookies](#)

[Firework Cookies](#)

[No Bake Diwali sweets](#)

If you don't want to serve food or sweets, make a poster board of different sweets people eat on this day or ask participants to bring their favorite Indian snacks to share.

Acknowledgements:

We'd like to thank the following people for their contributions to this Diwali Guide:

Alka Patel, Children's Librarian with Clifton Public Library, New Jersey

Anu Sehgal, Founder of [The Culture Tree](#)

Dina Mistry, [The Playful Indian](#)