

## Celebrating Holi (Hindu Spring Celebration)

Holi is the Hindu Festival of Colors. Held over several days in early March, the festival celebrates the coming of spring and is known for “merrymaking and mischief.” This year, (2008) Holi is celebrated around March 22nd. This song is intended simply as an introduction to the holiday, and not meant to be comprehensive. Traditionally, on the third day, friends and neighbors gather together in the streets and colored powders are thrown in the air and then smeared on faces and bodies. More recently, safer and more environmentally friendly ways have been found to celebrate. For this song, children will simply be introduced to the holiday, and celebrate with colors. Read through the suggestions below, and use which ever ideas seem appropriate for your age group. Traditions from other cultures offer us a wonderful way to learn about each other, and in a way that children can appreciate and understand.

### Before You Use this Song...

- ❖ Show children on a map or globe, where India is.
- ❖ Check out an easy-nonfiction book from your library on Indian, and share some of the pictures and information with the children, depending on their ages.
- ❖ Ask children if anyone has a relative who comes from India. You might ask that relative to come in and share their memories of Holi celebrations.

### Ideas for Using this Song

1. Use sign language for the words in red, below. Depending on the ages of your children, you can use just a few or all of the suggested sign. Sign descriptions can be found at the bottom of the next page.
2. Give children scarves, and have them dance to the song. Talk about the colors we see in spring
3. After you sing the song a couple of times, have the children make up a simple dance to do with the scarves. For example, they might dance in a circle waving the scarves during the verses, and kneel down and wave the scarves like rainbows during the chorus.

# Celebrating Holi

## CHORUS:

Children in India, celebrating Holi  
Celebrating Holi, and the coming of spring  
Families in India gather with their neighbors  
Celebrating Holi and the coming of spring

Dancing and singing, and sweets made for eating  
Laughing and welcoming the coming of spring (chorus)

Painted in the colors, the colors of the rainbow  
Dancing in the colors, the colors of spring (chorus)

## ASL signs

### Celebrating:

Fist held up making circles as if holding flags

### Children:

Downturned hand moves across in front of body as if patting children on their heads

### Colors:

Fingertips of the right hand palm facing body, are placed against the chin and wiggle back and forth.

### Coming:

Natural sign. hand beckons

### Dancing :

Downturned index and middle fingers of right "V" hand swing rhythmically back and forth over upturned left palm

### Eating:

Closed right hand moves to mouth as if eating, repeat

### Neighbors:

Use the sign for friends; index finger of left hand over index finger of right, cross, then reverse

### Rainbow:

Right hand, palm facing signer, arcs in the air from left to right (as if tracing the colors in the sky)

### Singing:

Right "5" hand palm facing left, is waved back and forth next to the left hand, as if conducting

### Spring:

Right hand fingers pointed up, come up through left fist as if "growing" spread fingers as they emerge