



Activity Packet

A collection of resources aligned to the theme of Family



At its best, family provides a place of warmth and love. Families come in all forms and children will recognize the relationships, traditions, and feelings in families of all types. Providing a wide array of family stories helps children feel at home no matter their family makeup.

This packet includes activities for...

- Educators to use in the classroom
- Parents/caregivers to use at home
- Students to use for their own exploration

A Family Connection

This is a whole class and group activity. If appropriate, students can work in pairs or small groups for brainstorming, writing, or drawing support. Bring the whole class together to talk about their conclusions.

Note: You likely have as many types of families represented in your classroom as you have students. The diversity is wonderful but, as you know, it can often make students uncomfortable. This activity will focus students' attention on three fictional families to illustrate the diversity and highlight the strengths of all kinds of family.

Steps

1. Have a brainstorming session with students in your class to come up with three stories that everyone is familiar with. Use these stories as a basis for the rest of the activity.
2. Divide the class into three groups and assign one of the selected stories to each group.
3. Have each group define the family found in their assigned story and identify each of the family members.
4. Have each group complete our Family Facts sheet about the family members, relationships, etc. in their assigned story.
5. Have each group identify one strength of the family in their assigned story.
6. Using a different color marker for each group's list, make one list from the three lists and note all the differences.
7. Collect all the strengths and discuss how they are similar or different.
8. As you read books throughout the year, come back to the idea of family and continue to note the various strengths to be found in all sorts of families.



Family Facts

Names of Students in the Group: _____

Title of Story: _____

List the members in the family featured in the story (by name and relationship):

List the facts about the family in the story:

How many members are in the family? _____

What relationships are there (e.g. father, cousin, sister)? _____

Where does the family live (e.g., city, suburb, New York, India) _____

Other facts _____

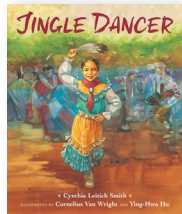
One or more strengths about this family (e.g., this family listens well to all members):

1. _____

2. _____

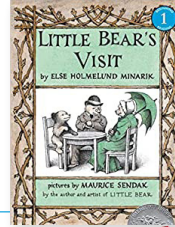
3. _____

Recommended Books



Jingle Dancer

Author: Cynthia Leitich Smith
 Illustrators: Cornelius Van Wright
 and Ying-Hwa Hu
 Grades: PK–5



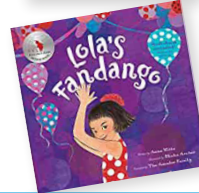
Little Bear's Visit

Authors: Else Holmelund Minarik
 Illustrator: Maurice Sendak
 Grades: K–3



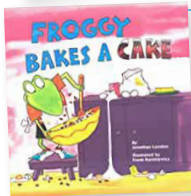
A Chair for My Mother

Author & Illustrator: Vera B. Williams
 Grades: PK–3



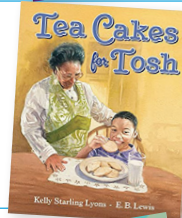
Lola's Fandango

Author: Anna Witte
 Illustrator: Micha Archer
 Grades: K–3



Froggy Bakes a Cake

Author: Jonathan London
 Illustrator: Frank Remkiewicz
 Grades: PK–3



Tea Cakes for Tosh

Author: Kelly Starling Lyons
 Illustrator: E.B. Lewis
 Grades: K–3



One Family

Author: George Shannon
 Illustrator: Blanca Gómez
 Grades: PK–3



The House That Lou Built

Author: Mae Respicio
 Grades: 3–7



Uncle Peter's Amazing Chinese Wedding

Author: Lenore Look
 Illustrator: Yumi Heo
 Grades: PK–3



The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher

Author: Dana Alison Levy
 Grades: 4–7

Discussion questions for any recommended book listed above:

1. How would you describe the relationship between the family members in the book?
2. How did the family members in the book help each other?
3. What do you think the family in the book enjoys doing together?
4. Did any of the family members in the book remind you of people you know?
5. Why do you think family is important?

For additional activities for the books listed, please visit www.RIF.org/Literacy-Central/Collections/Family



Note to Parents/Caregivers

Our class is learning about family with literacy resources from Reading is Fundamental. Complete this activity with your child to help deepen their understanding of family.

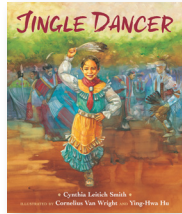
A Family Story

This activity focuses on a family story. You may have a story from generations back or your story may be unfolding now or something in between.

Steps

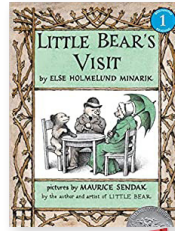
1. Think of a family story that you think your child should know. It may be funny, have a lesson, or tell a tale of struggle.
2. Tell your child the story. Enhance the telling by acting things out, presenting items related to the story, drawing or showing maps or pictures, playing music, etc.
3. Give the story a title and talk with your child about the characters, beginning, middle, end, conflict, and solution.
4. Work with your child to turn the story into a “storybook” – this may be digital or on paper and can be simple (e.g., pen on plain paper). Consider writing the words on a series of pages and having your child illustrate or you draw the pictures and have your child tell or write the story.
5. Enjoy the story as a family. Read it as a bedtime story. Share it with other family members. Create a read-aloud video. Send a copy to a relative who stars in the story.

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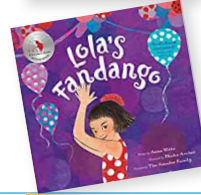
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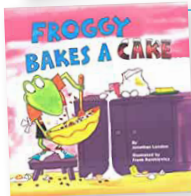
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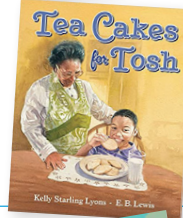
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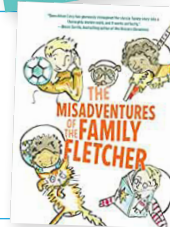
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You and Me

You and your family share a lot. You have shared experiences, maybe you all dislike a specific food, or maybe you all enjoy music! Let's show the connections between you and one of your family members.

Pick one family member for this activity. (You can do this activity again, with more family members.)

What do you call this person? _____

Complete the chart below to see all your connections to this special member of your family.

Things I Can Learn from _____

Drawing of _____

Ways I am Like _____

Things I Can Do for _____