

BOOK OF THE MONTH:

A Family Is a Family Is a Family

by Sara O'Leary
Ages 4-8

1. Introducing the book:



Exploring the Cover

How many children can you see in the picture and how many adults? Can you name a few examples of people helping each other? What are they working on?

Building Background

Ask the children about their favorite family activities - what are the things they do together as a family? Play a fun game together - ask a question about family habits and then point to the child who gets to answer the question. Make sure everyone has got their turn. Question examples: Who is the person to wake up last in your family? Who has the funniest sneeze? Who tells the best jokes? Who can run the fastest?

2. Reading the book:

While reading the book, make connections to the children's lives:

- Who is an only child?
- Who has many siblings?
- Who has a family with 2 moms or 2 dads?
- Whose family loves to sing?
- Who has a new baby in their family?
- etc.

As you learn about different families, talk about what they share in common - love and care that they have for each other.

3. After reading the book:



Family Puzzle

Materials:

- Family photo
- Carton/popsicle sticks
- Glue
- Scissors



You will need a family photo of a desired size. Together with the child, glue the family photo to a piece of carton of the same size, and then cut it in pieces of different shapes. Alternatively, you can cut the photo in even strips and glue the strips to wooden popsicle sticks. You can also number the pieces to make the puzzle easier.



Family Role Exchange

A family role exchange is a great way to teach children about responsibility, autonomy and empathy. Together as a family, sit down to talk about your individual tasks and set a time for your exchange. Keep it age-appropriate and fun. The tasks are not to be done perfectly, this game is a role playing game that is meant to teach children about family values in a stimulating way.

For younger ages the tasks they perform as "mommy" or "daddy" can be: calling the family to dinner and serving the meal (with assistance if required), telling a bedtime story to mom or dad and putting them to bed, helping mom or dad dress in the morning, brushing their hair etc.

References and resources

- [Family Puzzle activity idea - http://thebiggestmuch.blogspot.com/2012/02/popsicle-stick-puzzles.html](http://thebiggestmuch.blogspot.com/2012/02/popsicle-stick-puzzles.html)
- [Family Role Exchange Article - https://youaremom.com/parenting/raising-a-child/responsibilities-and-values/role-exchange/](https://youaremom.com/parenting/raising-a-child/responsibilities-and-values/role-exchange/)

Legend



Cognitive



Socio-emotional



Language



Physical