

MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS



Dear Families,

Over the next four weeks, children will be learning about families and friends. This theme begins with a focus on the immediate family and extends to relatives, pets, and the community. Children will be discussing the similarities and differences in their families and will celebrate the support they receive from their extended families and community members.

Week 1: Immediate Family • Week 2: My Relatives
Week 3: Pets • Week 4: My Community

GREETING CIRCLE

During the Greeting Circle, children **unite** together as a classroom family. They will practice breathing deeply, a calming strategy that they can use to **calm** themselves when they feel upset. Children will even imitate Grandpa snoring, sniffing flowers, and panting like a puppy as they practice deep breathing. They will **connect** with their classmates as they send good wishes to those who are absent and welcome back those who are returning. Children will also **commit** to keeping the classroom safe and taking responsibility for their own actions. They will practice sharing and using helping hands, walking feet, and big voices.

LITERACY

Week 1: Immediate Family

Word of the Week: siblings
 Focus Letters: C, c, E, e
 Read-Aloud Time: Three Bears' Rap
 The Three Bears' Vacation

Week 2: My Relatives

Word of the Week: relatives
 Focus Letters: A, a, G, g
 Read-Aloud Time: Helping Grandma and Grandpa
 Aunt Jessie's Hats

Week 3: Pets

Word of the Week: veterinarian
 Focus Letters: I, i, P, p
 Read-Aloud Time: Sara Sidney's Special Day
 Jasper's New Bed

Week 4: My Community

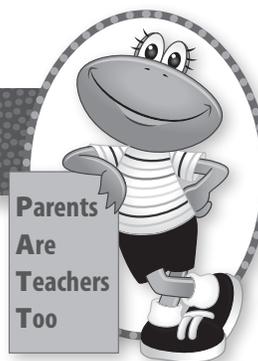
Word of the Week: community
 Focus Letters: F, f, O, o
 Read-Aloud Time: Community Helpers
 Better Things to Do

MATH

Sorting and classifying are fundamental math skills. When you sort and classify objects (or pictures, or children, or anything else), you determine characteristics that the objects share and characteristics they don't share. In other words, you identify how they are alike and how they are different. These characteristics are commonly called *attributes*. In this theme, children will begin identifying attributes of size, sound, color, and shape. They will also be using position words (over, under, beside, etc.) to tell where an object is.

- ★ Play a simple game of Bigger and Smaller. Choose a familiar object—a teddy bear. Invite your child to find an object that is bigger than the bear and another object that is smaller than the bear. Change the object and try again.
- ★ Provide a basket and a color challenge. With your child, decide on the target color—*green*, for example. Invite your child to find five things that are *green* that will fit in the basket.
- ★ Encourage your child to use "position" vocabulary instead of pointing. "See the squirrel **on** the fence." "The tomato **behind** the leaf is ripe."

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THEME 2: PATT Mat

LITERACY

Challenge your child to find alphabet letters in and around your home. It's not necessary to name the letters.



The important thing is to simply recognize that they are letters. Try a limited area and start looking—the bathtub, a shoe, the television, the front of your house, or on your car.

MATH

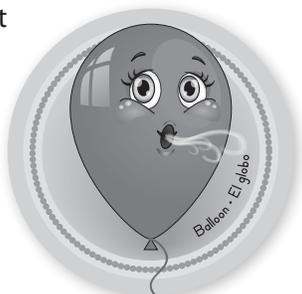
Fill a container with multi-colored objects (hair bows, wooden blocks, rubber bands, small candies, toy cars). Sit with your child and choose one object.



For example, say: *I see a red car.* Invite your child to find another object the same color. Say: *Can you find something red?* Take turns sorting the objects by colors.

BALLOON BREATHING

Encourage your child to practice Balloon to disengage stress. Place your hands on your head and lock your fingers together. Breathe in as you raise your hands over your head as if air is filling up a balloon. Let the air out as you drop your hands back down to your head while making a “ppppbbbb” sound.



OUTDOORS

Invoke your child to explore your community with a simple scavenger hunt. Create a list of five things you expect to see—a brown dog, a tall tree, a black car, a white bird, a door with a window. Read the list with your child and together start your search. Walk along a familiar sidewalk or path and keep alert. Check off any of the items on the list, and comment on the people and places you see. This is a great opportunity to practice position words as you point out where something is.



STEAM CONNECTION (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math)

Does your child love to help you cook? Work together to make a fruit salad. Talk with your child as you work together to cut the fruits into bite-sized pieces with plastic knives. Encourage your child to identify the color of the fruits and to tell whether they are soft or hard. **Note:** *If you have chosen a hard fruit such as an apple, assist your child to safely cut it.* Put the pieces of fruit into a serving bowl and add several spoons of yogurt. Stir and sprinkle with sunflower seeds. Serve the salad for a family snack and celebrate the way your child helped to prepare it.





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BIG BEDS, SMALL BEDS

In our read-aloud lesson this week, we read about Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We had fun discussing the sizes of beds in the story.



Please help your child determine which of your family members have big beds and which family members have small beds.

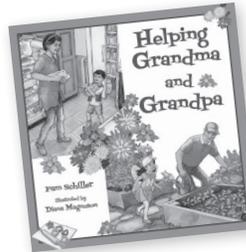
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MY RELATIVES

This week we noticed the colors of different things, and we made a graph to show our favorite colors. What is your favorite? Please share it with your child.



We also discussed the relatives in our extended families—grandmas, grandpas, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Talk with your child about your extended family.

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PET WALK

Pets are an important part of some families. Maybe you have one. Invite your child to go with you on a neighborhood pet walk. You may have to use your ears as well as your eyes as you look and listen for clues that a pet is nearby.



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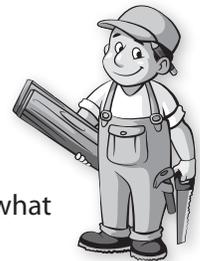


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COMMUNITY HELPERS

On your way to or from school, invite your child to watch for community helpers. Together see what helpers you can find. Perhaps there will be a trash collector, a firefighter, a store clerk, a gardener, or a repairman. Talk about the work that community helper does.

Tell your child what you wanted to be when you were a child and what occupation you have now.



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