



My Family

Requirements

1. Sing a song about families.
2. Listen to a story about families.
3. Say 3 things you've learned about families.
4. Make a craft about families.
5. Complete an activity about families.

Updated in: Unknown / Grade Unknown

Supporting Answers

1. Before singing the song, listen to the children tell you about what types of people there are in THEIR families and in other families they know (daddy, mommy, siblings, grandparents, uncles & aunts, cousins, etc.). Remember that a “nuclear” family may be any combination of any of the above and even more options, including divorced and blended family units! As the adult leader you are responsible for treated each family type as equally valid and valuable to the child.

Youtube has a version of the song available - “With Jesus in the Family.”

With Jesus In the Family

With Jesus in the family, happy, happy home.

Happy, happy home. Happy, happy home.

With Jesus in the family, happy, happy home.

Happy, happy home.

With Mommy in the family...

With Daddy in the family...

With Grandpa in the family...

With Grandma in the family...

With Auntie in the family...

etc. (all possible relatives important to the children in your group)

2. Remember that reading (and listening to books read) is a life skill that will help your group of children succeed in their future. Help them make sure that reading and listening is a part of each of your meetings, for the sake of your group’s economic future and careers!

Bible stories about families include the story of Abraham & Sarah and Isaac, Samson and his parents, Joseph, Mary, and Jesus, and many more. Because most of these stories span a wide variety of biblical verses, it is important to find the children’s illustrated books that are written for young people that help you tell the story more smoothly than the Bible passage does.

3. Discussion from #1 can grow to include family heritage (where families are from), language, favorite foods, and much more. This is a special time for your group to share. Be sure to help them all experience the time, even if

it means encouraging some to be more reserved than they would normally wish to be.

4. Teaching Idea: My Family Tree

Materials: Sheets of construction paper, 12 × 18 in (30.5 × 45 cm); Green tempera or finger paint; Shallow containers; Crayons or markers; Newspaper/disposable tablecloths; Smocks

Procedure: Ahead of time: You'll need one piece of construction paper for each child. On each sheet of paper, draw a tree trunk and grass. Then draw a large circle atop the tree trunk. This is the area the children will fill in with handprints to represent leaves. Pour enough green tempera or finger paint to cover the bottom of a shallow container (disposable plastic plates work well). Cover the area where the children will be painting with newspaper, disposable tablecloth, or something else that can easily be cleaned. Have each child wear an oversized adult shirt or make smocks out of trash bags (cut a hole in the bottom of the bag for the child's head and holes in the sides for their arms). Show the children how to place one hand palm down flat in the paint and then press it onto the paper in or near the circle. (Don't worry if the "leaves" are all over the picture and not in the circle.) After the children have put the leaves on their trees, have an adult ask the children the names of their family members and then print the names on the leaves. (The children may not know proper names of their family members, so it's okay to write Grammy, Mommy, or Daddy.) Don't forget to include the child's name on one of the leaves. And if they want to try to write their own name, let them!

5. With the Little Lambs, often their family members are present, so you have a lot of options!

Teaching Idea: (Activity Book) Stick Figures

Materials: Activity Book; crayons or washable markers.

Procedure: Have the children draw their families. As four-year olds, adults will need to help a lot. Other options include sticking pictures of adults in the frame and coloring them, or using stickers/foam stickies, etc. in the frame to represent their family members This is the least exciting or all the options available to your group! You may even choose to do more than one activity as you close your meeting time together.

Teaching Idea: Matching Game

Materials: Prepared pairs of family member pictures (either from printouts or photos) (x20 or more sets)

Procedure: Ahead of time, create pairs of matching “cards” that have photos/pictures/drawings of different types of people who are part of families (grandparents, uncles, aunts, boy cousins, girl cousins, sister, brother, father, mother, etc.) Mix the cards and place face down on the floor in the middle between the groups. Have each family unit present (or make “families” (teams)) flip over one pair of cards. If they match, the family may pick it up. Play continues around the circle. When all cards have been matched, the game is over. The family with the most sets wins! Have families talk about the family members represented by the pictures when they make set.

Teaching Idea: Family Appreciation

Materials: none

Procedure: Have each family meet in a circle. Have each one take a turn saying one thing they like about being a part of their family. If some kids aren't attending with family members, having one large group where appreciations are shared with everyone else also works!