



Drawing family portraits can help children appreciate how different groupings can make up a family.

Supplies

- ★ Blank paper
- ★ Construction paper
- ★ Markers or crayons (including flesh tone colors)
- ★ Hole puncher
- ★ Yarn



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Family Portrait Book

Skills Children Learn: Awareness and appreciation of diversity, Language development, Early literacy skills

Directions

- 1 Prepare for the activity by reading a book about what a family is and how different kinds of groupings can make up a family.
- 2 Lead a discussion using open-ended questions. (How many people are in your family? Who has a grandpa living with you? Who has an auntie who takes care of you? How many of you have a pet in your families? Can a family have only two people? etc.)
- 3 Give each child a blank piece of paper. Ask the children to draw all the members of their own family (Be sure to make available a variety of flesh tone colors among the markers and crayons you provide.)
- 4 Speak with each child while they are drawing, asking open-ended questions about their family. If the children are able to write, have them write words to accompany their drawings, such as "Me," "Mommy," "Daddy," or "My big brother." If the children are unable to write label each family member for them.
- 5 Ask the children to bring home their drawings so that their family members can make further notes for them. (If the child's family speaks a different language at home, the family member should write in their own language.)
- 6 When the children have returned their drawings, put them together to make a book. Use colored construction paper for a front and back cover. Bind the album by punching holes along the left side. Tie yarn through the holes to hold the book together.
- 7 Ask the children to give their books a title and invite them to decorate their covers.
- 8 Read the family album aloud to the children; be sure to ask open-ended questions about the differences and similarities they see among their families.
- 9 Be sure to place the album in a special place where the children can easily "read" it again whenever they like.

Tips For Mixed Ages: 5 year olds can be encouraged to do their own writing. Assist them in sounding out words and/ or write words for them to copy.

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