

Family Picture Walk



LL30

Enjoying Stories and Books

Primary Objective: 10
Uses appropriate conversational and other communication skills
a. Engages in conversations
Related Objectives: 2a, 8a, 9a, 9b, 11a, 12a

What You Do

Background: Children love to look at photos of themselves and their families. Photos of familiar faces can be comforting to children, and they give you and the children many opportunities to engage in conversation, while also making a connection between school and home.

Materials: family photos for each child in your class; self-adhesive laminating sheets; Velcro®

Talk with each child’s family members and ask them to bring in photos of their family. Ask them to include photos of extended family members, pets, and close friends. Ask family members to write the name of each person in the photo on the back of the photo. If families would like the photos returned, make copies of families’ photos for laminating and write the names of family members on the backs of the copies. Laminate each copy to protect it. On a wall at the children’s height, create a photo display by mounting the child’s photos on the wall with Velcro®.

- 1. Sit with a child at the display and discuss her family photos. Point to individual people in a photo and talk about them with the child. Ask questions about the photos to encourage her to engage in a back-and-forth exchange.**
“Look, here is a picture of your family. I see Grandma and Auntie. What are they doing in the photo?”
- 2. Refer to the photos throughout the day or when the child feels anxious about being away from his family.**

Including All Children

- Make an audio recording of the child’s family members talking.
- Use large, high-contrast photos.
- Use terms for family members in the children’s home languages.**

Teaching Sequence

RED	Hold the child so that he can see your face and a family photo. Talk with the child about the photo. Observe as he watches your face and mouth, coos, and moves his mouth as you talk. “Look, here is your papi. Hello, Papi. Papi is holding a big balloon.”
RED	Hold the child so that she can see a photo of her family members. Talk with the child about the photo, pausing and listening for her to babble in response to your words. After she babbles, respond to her to continue the conversation.
ORANGE	Teacher: “I see your mommy and your big sister.” Child: “Ma-ma-ma-ma, ba-ba-ba.” Teacher: “Yes, your mommy and sister are sitting on a bus.”
ORANGE	While looking at a photo with the child, ask him to name familiar family members. Model the child’s words. Ask questions that encourage the child to share a conversation with you. “Who’s that? Mama? I see Mama holding a cat. Is that your cat?”
ORANGE	Look at the photos with the child. When she comments on the photo by saying a word or short phrase, respond to the child by expanding on her statement to maintain the conversation.
YELLOW	Child: “Mama hat.” Teacher: “Your mommy is wearing a hat.”
YELLOW	Show the child a photo of his family members. Listen to what the child says about the photo. Build on what he says by asking questions or making comments. Encourage the child to continue the conversation for a few exchanges.
GREEN	“Here is a picture that you brought of your family. That’s right. It’s your mommy and daddy. What is your daddy doing in this picture?”
GREEN	Look at a family photo with the child. Talk with her about the family members in the photo. Discuss who each person is, what each person likes to do, and what the child likes to do with each person. Continue the conversation with the child for several exchanges. Teacher: “Who is in this photo?” Child: “My mommy and my dog.” Teacher: “What is your dog’s name?”

See *The Creative Curriculum® for Infants, Toddlers & Twos, Volume 3: Objectives for Development & Learning* for the progression of development beyond the green colored band for this objective and dimension.

Questions to Guide Your Observations

- In what ways did the child engage with you in a back-and-forth exchange? (10a)
- How long did the child attend to the photo of his family? (11a)
- Did the child recognize familiar people in the photos? (12a)

Related LearningGames®

- 99. Tell Family Stories