

Learning Objectives

		Blocks & Building	Creativity	Dramatic Play	Math	Reading & Listening	Science	Technology	Writing
Social-Emotional	Plans and initiates independent play sequences	✓	✓	✓			✓		
	Sustains attention to personally chosen or routine tasks until they are completed	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Shares his or her space and materials	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Emergent Reading	Handles and cares for books in a respectful manner			✓		✓			
	Listens to books on CDs, following along and turning the pages at the appropriate time					✓		✓	
Emergent Writing	Independently uses letters or symbols to make words or parts of words	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Uses scribbles/writing to convey meaning	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Oral Language	Responds to both open-ended questions and questions with specific answers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Listens attentively to stories of increasing length					✓		✓	
	Uses <i>please</i> and <i>thank you</i> appropriately			✓					
	Uses a large speaking vocabulary, adding several new words daily	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓
Mathematics	Names common shapes				✓				
	Compares lengths to determine which is longer or shorter				✓		✓		
	Counts objects to 5		✓	✓	✓		✓		
	Sorts a collection of objects based on one attribute		✓		✓		✓		
Science & Health	Understands the life cycle of human growth				✓		✓		
	Identifies good habits of nutrition and exercise	✓	✓	✓			✓		
	Observes and explores how materials change when combined						✓		
	Describes the color, shape, size, taste, smell, and texture of objects	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Social Studies	Identifies similarities and differences in characteristics of families	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Physical Development	Shows control of tasks that require small-muscle strength and control	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Engages in exercise and fitness activities	✓							
Fine Arts	Engages in dramatic play with classmates	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
	Uses a variety of art materials and activities for sensory experience and exploration	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Technology & Media	Opens and navigates software programs							✓	
	Operates voice/sound recorders					✓			

Learning Centers

At a Glance

Blocks & Building Center

Learning Focus: Build family homes and role-play family activities with blocks.



Creativity Center

Learning Focus: Create family artwork using a variety of materials.



Dramatic Play Center

Learning Focus: Act out different family roles and activities.



Math Center

Learning Focus: Use math concepts to explore the theme.



Reading & Listening Center

Learning Focus: Read and listen to books about different families.



Science Center

Learning Focus: Explore healthy habits and living and non-living things.



Technology Center

Learning Focus: Experience stories and read along with books about family.

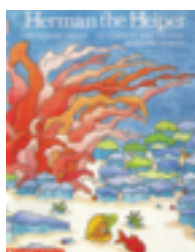


Writing Center

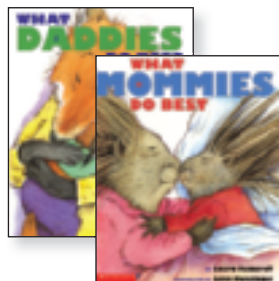
Learning Focus: Write about family members and special times.



Audiobooks



Herman the Helper
by Robert Kraus



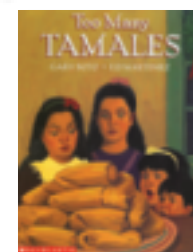
*What Mommies Do Best/
What Daddies Do Best*
by Laura Numeroff



Featured Big Day BookFlix Videos



Chato's Kitchen
by Gary Soto



Too Many Tamales
by Gary Soto

Literature Recommendations

Include books in every learning center and encourage children to look at them for ideas and inspiration. Here are some recommendations for this theme:

Blocks & Building Center

- *Building a House* by Byron Barton
- *Changes, Changes* by Pat Hutchins

Creativity Center

- *Celebrating Families* by Rosmarie Hausherr
- *Evening Meals Around the World* by Michele Zurakowski

Dramatic Play Center

- *Bedtime Hugs for Little Ones* by Debby Boone
- *Table Manners* by Chris Raschka

Math Center

- *So Many Circles, So Many Squares* by Tana Hoban
- *Length* by Henry Arthur Pluckrose

Reading & Listening Center

- *Families* by Ann Morris
- *What a Family* by Rachel Isadora

Science Center

- *My Goldfish* by Pam Walker
- *What in the World Is a Cup?* by Mary Elizabeth Salzmann

Technology Center

- www.bigdaybookflix.scholastic.com

Writing Center

- *Who's in a Family?* by Robert Skutch
- *Alphabet House* by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace

**ABC
PLACE**

Letters We Are Learning

Cc, Dd, Ee

Transform the sensory table in your classroom into a place where children can explore letters.

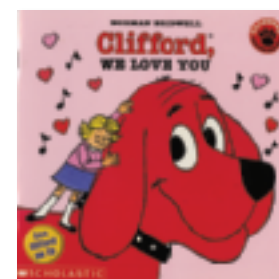
- **Sand Letters:** Have children move their fingers through sand to form letters. Wet the sand and add letter cookie cutters or molds.
- **Find the Letters:** Hide foam letters in sand and have children search for them and match them to an alphabet chart.
- **Fish for Letters:** Fill the sensory table with water and foam letters. Challenge children to catch upper- and lowercase letter matches with a fishnet.
- **Invisible Letters:** Have children dip letter sponges in water, stamp them on mini-chalkboards, and watch them disappear.

Teacher Tip: If you do not have a sensory table, use a shallow bucket or pans filled with sand, cornmeal, salt, or water.

Clifford Corner: Kindness

Use these ideas to model and reinforce the social-emotional focus.

- Read aloud and discuss the Clifford books before adding them to the Reading & Listening Center for children to explore independently.
- Point out when children demonstrate the social-emotional focus or one from the previous theme.
- Use teachable moments during Learning Centers to prompt children to show kindness.
- Recognize children who demonstrate kindness with a Clifford Certificate printed from the online resources.



Clifford's Big Idea:
Be Kind



Clifford's Big Idea:
Share

Learning Centers

Blocks & Building Center

Learning Focus: Build family homes and role-play family activities with blocks.

Materials

- Stuffed animals
- Paper, crayons
- Ball
- Half-gallon milk cartons, toy cars, toy people

Writing Connection

Make STOP signs and street signs for the block area.

Week 1: Build Block Homes

Ask children to build their family homes out of blocks, using stuffed animals to show who is part of the family.

Week 2: Care Family Pets

Have children build a house for a dog, a tank for fish, a cage for a bird, or another place for a family pet to live so they can pretend to feed and take good care of the newest member of the family.

Week 3: Play Family Games

Put a ball in the Center and invite children to mimic games they play with their families, such as bowling. Encourage children to collaborate on setting up block pins and knocking them down.

Week 4: Visit Friends at Home

Provide models of homes made from milk cartons. Have children make and decorate homes they can use in the Center with toy cars and people figures to pretend they are visiting each other. Add the homes and toy cars to the block area for children to drive around and visit each other's families.

“Learning Talk”

Child: Bear lives in this house. His brother, mama, grandma, and grandpa live here, too!

Teacher: He has a big family! He might need a bigger house.

Child: But there's no more room.

Teacher: Let's think about how we can make more space. What if you turn the blocks this way?

Child: We can make the house bigger now because it won't fall over.

Support Problem Solving

Creativity Center

Learning Focus: Create family artwork using a variety of materials.

Materials

- Play dough, yarn, precut paper clothing
- Scissors, glue sticks, paper plates, supermarket ads
- Magazines
- Paper, crayons

Writing Connection

Make name tags for the play dough family members.

Week 1: Sculpt Family Members

Provide play dough in a variety of skin tones, yarn pieces in different colors, and construction paper cutouts of colorful items of clothing. Invite children to use the materials to sculpt themselves and family members.

Week 2: Cook Family Meals

Invite children to cut out pictures of food from magazines or ads to glue onto paper plates and cook a meal for their families.

Week 3: Draw Favorite Family Activities

Have children draw and label an activity that they like to do with their families. Bind all of the pictures into a class book titled “Family Fun” that children can enjoy in the Reading & Listening Center.

Week 4: Make Special Collages

Provide magazines and art and drawing materials so children can make collages about their families.

“Learning Talk”

Teacher: Thank you for putting away the scissors and glue sticks. That was very helpful!

Child: I'm all done cleaning up.

Teacher: Do you remember what to do next?

Child: Sit on the rug.

Teacher: That's right!

Reinforce Classroom Routines



Dramatic Play Center

Learning Focus: Act out different family roles and activities.

Materials



- Tableware, play food, menus, empty food boxes
- Animals, dolls, blankets
- Wrapped gifts, party hats, decorations, plates, napkins
- Toy phones, note paper

Writing Connection



Write and scribble phone messages when calling family members.

Week 1: Have a Family Dinner

Have children set the table, serve dinner, and practice manners while having dinnertime conversations. Add real-world print, such as take-out menus and empty food boxes.

Week 2: Get Ready for Bed

Have children use their nighttime voices as they tuck stuffed animals or dolls in with a bedtime story. Remind children that they may need to hear “just one more” before going to sleep.

Week 3: Celebrate a Birthday

Put Clifford in the Center and have children give him a family birthday party. Children can sing happy birthday, give gifts, play games, and eat a birthday treat.

Week 4: Call Family Members

Invite children to have pretend phone conversations with family members. They can speak, listen, and take messages.

“Learning Talk”

Teacher: What can you talk about while your family eats dinner?

Child: I don't know. I can't think of anything to say.

Teacher: What is your favorite book?

Child: I like the Clifford book.

Teacher: That's a good thing to talk about.

Prompt Conversation

Math Center

Learning Focus: Use math concepts to explore the theme.

Materials



- Attribute blocks
- Paper, crayons
- Baby dolls, snap cubes
- Board games for children
- Clippings of different types of buildings

Writing Connection



Write numbers and letters on house pictures for addresses.

Week 1: Make Shape Houses

Provide paper, crayons, and attribute blocks. Have children make houses by tracing the various shapes in different configurations.

Week 2: Measure Baby Dolls

Talk about taking care of baby brothers and sisters as they grow and change. Ask children to use snap cubes to measure different baby dolls from head to feet. Have them compare the lengths of the snap-cube trains and order them from shortest to longest.

Week 3: Play Counting Board Games

Put familiar children's games in the Center that require rolling a number cube or spinning a spinner and counting spaces to five. Invite children to work together to set up and play family games.

Week 4: Sort Buildings

Provide clippings of different types of buildings, including homes and community buildings. Have children sort the pictures into groups by one attribute, such as color, size, or purpose.

“Learning Talk”

Child: Look! I made one big triangle.

Teacher: I see! You made a big triangle roof using a lot of little triangles. What about the door?

Child: The door is a long square.

Teacher: You put two squares together to make the door. It has four sides like a square, but these sides are longer. If it can't be a square, what else could it be?

Child: It's a rectangle!

Restate a Concept

Learning Centers

Reading & Listening Center

Learning Focus: Read and listen to books about different families.

Materials



- Copies of *Herman the Helper*, *Daddy Calls Me Man*, and *What Mommies Do Best/What Daddies Do Best*
- Audio CD: Theme 2
- CD players with headphones
- Drawing materials

Writing Connection

Write stories about a family from one book meeting a family from a different book.

Week 1: Act Out Books About Families

Put *Herman the Helper* and *Daddy Calls Me Man* in the Center after you have read them to the class. Encourage children to retell stories by acting them out.

Week 2: Listen to Big Books

Invite children to use individual copies of the theme Big Books to read along with as they listen to the audiobooks. Show children how to operate the buttons to play, pause, and stop the story.

Week 3: Share Favorite Family Books

Ask children to choose a favorite theme book. Encourage children to tell each other what their families do together that is similar to what families do together in the books.

Week 4: Compare Families

Encourage children to look at theme books together and talk about how the families are alike and different.

“Learning Talk”

Child 1: She has the book I want.

Child 2: I had it first!

Teacher: Do you remember the **Ways to Share** routine? You can share the book by reading it together or taking turns.

Child 1: I want to read together.

Child 2: Me, too!

Teacher: Maybe you can take turns while you read together. Tyson, you can read a page to Amy, and then Amy can read the next page to you.

Encourage
Collaboration

Science Center

Learning Focus: Explore healthy habits and living and non-living things.

Materials



- Dolls and people figures representing different ages
- Food magazines, supermarket ads, index cards, paper, crayons
- Measuring cups/spoons, eye droppers, plastic balls, wooden blocks
- Various foods

Writing Connection

Use numbers and letters to write recipes on the cards.

Week 1: Show How People Grow

Put out dolls representing human growth: baby dolls, older children, and adult figures. Have children sort them, put them in growth order, and discuss how the dolls are like family members of various ages.

Week 2: Make Family Recipe Cards

Provide food magazines, supermarket ads, and index cards. Invite children to make family picture recipe cards of healthy foods.

Week 3: Explore Liquids and Solids

Provide eye droppers, measuring cups, and measuring spoons at the water table. Place objects like plastic balls and wooden blocks in the water. What sinks? What floats? Allow children to explore the properties of solids and liquids through play.

Week 4: Compare Multicultural Foods

Provide examples of multicultural foods in individual plastic bags, such as rice, pasta, tortillas, dried beans, and so on. Invite children to observe the physical characteristics of the foods.

“Learning Talk”

Child: I put the ball in the water.

Teacher: What happened to it?

Child: It stayed on top.

Teacher: That's because it can float. Did any of the other objects float?

Child: Yes, this little cup could float, too.

Build Knowledge

Technology Center



Learning Focus: Experience stories and read along with books about family.

Materials



- *Chato's Kitchen, Too Many Tamales*
- Computers with headphones and Internet

Writing Connection



Draw pictures and write sentences about the books.

Week 1: *Chato's Kitchen*

Tell children about the BookFlix fiction book to get them interested. Read the book aloud and then have children use BookFlix to watch the video. If you have an interactive whiteboard, use the touch screen to model how to navigate in BookFlix.

Week 2: *Mi barrio (My Neighborhood)*

Encourage children to watch the video of *My Neighborhood* multiple times and revisit stories from Theme 1. Show children how to use the Read Along feature for the nonfiction BookFlix book.

Week 3: *Too Many Tamales*

Ask children to retell the story and then have them watch the video using BookFlix. Remind children how to point and click the mouse to play or pause a story.

Week 4: *Mis comidas (My Foods)*

Have children read along with the nonfiction book. Model how to click on vocabulary words to get an audio definition and click Turn Page as they read.

“Learning Talk”

Teacher: Move the mouse so the cursor is pointing to the cover of the book. Now click the mouse.

Child: Here comes the video!

Teacher: Remember, you can pause the video whenever you need to. First, move the mouse to point to this button. Then what should you do?

Child: Click on the mouse.

Use Computer Vocabulary

ABC Writing Center



Learning Focus: Write about family members and special times.

Materials



- Stapled mini-books
- Variety of paper, crayons

Writing Connection



Make and write addresses on envelopes for the family notes.

Week 1: Create Family Mini-Books

Have children make books about their families. They can draw a family member on each page and write each person's name.

Week 2: Write Notes to Family Members

Encourage children to write letters to family members. Send children's letters home with a note from you asking for a response.

Week 3: Illustrate Special Times

Have children draw and label pictures of special occasions they have shared with family. They can illustrate memories from a family meal, ball game, reunion, birthday, or family trip.

Week 4: Write Story Words

Have children copy and draw pictures of words from the theme books to display on a Word Wall in the Center.

“Learning Talk”

Teacher: Tell me about your picture.

Child: It's a blue house.

Teacher: It's a pretty blue house. What else can you tell me about your house?

Child: There is three windows.

Teacher: Yes, I see there are three windows in your picture. Let's count them together... 1, 2, 3!

Restate and Expand

Learning Centers

My Ideas

Use this space to customize learning centers or to create additional learning centers of your own.

MATERIALS

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MATERIALS

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