

# All About Families

Play-based learning is a developmentally appropriate best-practice for young children. Through **All About Families**, students get to know themselves through learning about the concept of families. From what defines a family to how a family can look, this guide shows an array of ways for children to have fun learning about different types of families while enhancing their literacy skills. Follow these suggestions to create family-themed centers in your early childhood classroom.

## DOLL HOUSE DRAMATIC PLAY CENTER

Dramatic play inspires imagination, develops speaking and listening skills, fosters social skills such as sharing and turn taking, and supports children to acquire new vocabulary. A dramatic play center should include a theme, props, and adult guidance to enhance language development. Also include environmental print such as signs, labels, and authentic writing opportunities.



### SUGGESTED PROPS

- Doll House
- Accessories for house (dolls, furniture, etc.)



### RIF PRINTABLES

- Family posters
- Family banner

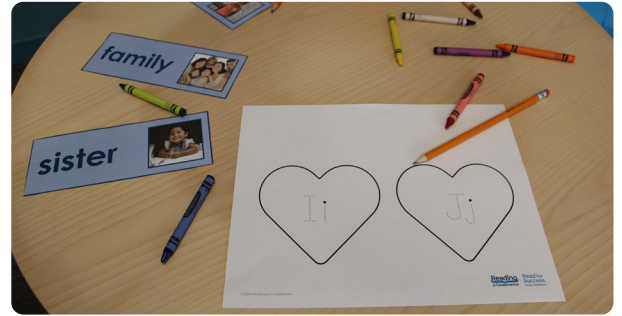


**ADULT GUIDANCE:** Use these suggested leveled questions and narrations to support children's play.

- **Level 1:** "Point to the dolls inside of the doll house."
- **Level 2:** "Who are the people that live in your house?"
- **Level 3:** "Why is the baby crying?"
- **Level 4:** "What might happen if you sang a nursery rhyme to the crying baby?"
- "You are tucking the baby into bed and singing her a nursery rhyme."
- "It's dinner time and Dad is cooking in the kitchen for the children."

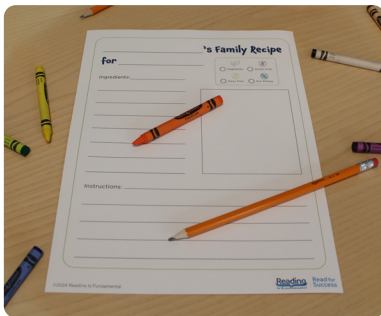
## WRITING CENTER

Young children benefit from exposure to different styles and purposes for writing. At your writing center include different types of paper and writing materials, a sound-spelling chart, and picture vocabulary cards. Help children see that writing has different purposes by providing examples of different types of writing such as friendly letters, storybooks, party invitations, and more.



### RIF PRINTABLES

- Family recipe
- Family border sheet (with and without lines)
- Heart alphabet tracing



Cooking as a family is a wonderful way to bring loved ones together! Write down your favorite family recipe. As a class, discuss some elements that make family recipes special, such as the history behind the recipe, traditional ingredients, and any memories associated with the dish. Have students practice writing their recipe using [RIF's Sound-Spelling Chart](#) and [Picture Vocabulary Cards](#).

## NURSERY RHYME CENTER

Singing nursery rhymes help children develop phonological awareness which is important for developing phonics. Set up a center for children to sing their favorite nursery rhymes. Include the nursery rhyme, hand-made or printed displays, and puppets or props related to the nursery rhyme.



### RIF PRINTABLES

- "Finger Family" nursery rhyme
- "Finger Family" puppets

