

## Theme: Family Relationships

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The Learning Triangle is TV that teaches + storybooks + activities—all related to one idea or skill. Parents and educators use the Learning Triangle to help children learn by encouraging them to interact with people and objects around them. Use the information below to create a Learning Triangle about family relationships.

### TV that teaches

**Barney and Friends:** #718—My Family and Me

**Caillou:** #120—My Family

**Reading Rainbow:** #1207—On the Day You Were Born

**Mister Rogers' Neighborhood:** #1552—Adoption Is One Way to Make a Family

**Maya and Miguel:** #—Family Time

**Postcards from Buster:** #119—Star Search

### Storybooks

**Families are Different** by Nina Pelligrini

**All Kinds of Families** by Norma Simon

**Family Pictures/Cuadros de familia** by Carmen Lomas Garza

**My Tata's Guitar/La guitarra de mi tata** by Ethriam Cash Brammer

**Abuela** by Arthur Dorros

**A Birthday Basket for Tia** by Pat Mora



### Activities

1. **Family Photo Album:** Sit down with your child and look at a family photo album. Talk about the people in the photos and how they are related to your child (aunt, uncle, cousin). Encourage your child to draw a picture of your family.
2. **Remember When...:** Share a family story with your child. Think of a funny, happy, or special time from your family history. Talk about what happened, when it happened, who was there, and where it happened. Add details like how you were feeling, what the weather was like, or what people said. Children love to hear stories about when they were little or when you were a child. Sharing family stories gives your child a sense of identity and belonging.
3. **Create a Special:** Routine: Children love repeated experiences. Build a family routine around a daily event like bedtime, bath time, or mealtime. Read a bedtime story, wake your child up with a silly song, or let your child set the table. When your child gets older, he will remember your family's daily routines as much as the special events.
4. **Write a Letter:** Encourage your child to draw a picture or write a note to a family member. If your child isn't old enough to write, let her dictate a letter to you. Put the picture or note in an envelope, address it, and take a trip to the post office. Chances are, your child will receive a reply.
5. **Family Picture:** Provide crayons, markers, or paint and paper for your child to draw a picture of the family. Have your child dictate comments about each family member. This may be a good picture to frame and enjoy for many years.

WILL has many resources that support the education of young children. For more information contact our educational outreach coordinator at **217-333-1070** or e-mail **delaney1@will.uiuc.edu**.

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