

Theme: Happy Family Day

Date: February 11, 2021

Hello StrongStart families,

Today's email is put together by Teacher Sandy (from Queen Alexandra).

**Family Day in British Columbia is Monday February 15th.** This is a good time to talk about families and all the different types of families in our society. Families come in all shapes and sizes.



For younger children, you can talk about the family that lives under your roof. This could be mothers and fathers, grandmas and grandpas or sisters and brothers. Family members can extend out to aunts and uncles, cousins, stepparents and stepsiblings.

You can also discuss that not all families look the same. Some families have two mommies or daddies while some may only have one. Some have none and live with other grown-ups like grandparents or foster parents. In addition, not all family members are called the same name! There are so many names we use when referring to our grandma. For example, there's "Nana" or "Gramma" or "Ah Ma".

When you come across early childhood literature like songs or books, remember that it's okay to change the roles according to your family. It will make your child feel like the story is made just for them. Children should be proud of their families and we should encourage the celebration of all kinds of family compositions!

Here are a few fun family activities for you to do this Family Day:

- Take a walk on a new hiking trail or try a new playground.
- Watch your favourite movie together with some special snacks.

- Play a card or board game.
- Build a tent in your living room and go "camping" in February.
- Have a "show and tell" after dinner. Topics could be "favourite thing in the house" or "favourite colour".
- Take out some photos of your family members and make them into popsicle puppets. For example, you can encourage story telling while using another person's puppet.



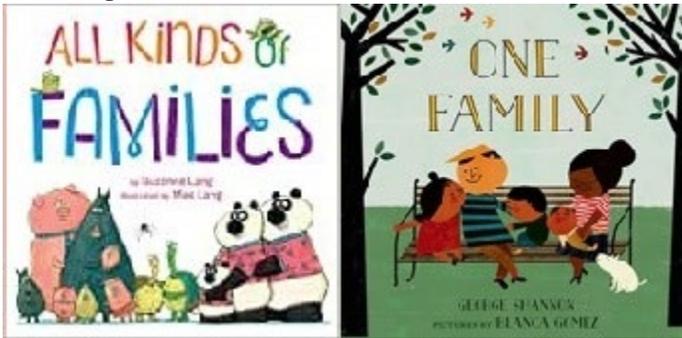
- Create a family artwork. For instance, try weaving something together. Hang that on the wall with the date and names of everyone who participated. Make another next year and see if it's the same or different!



- Cook a meal together. Include the children in planning what to eat as well as making it. When times are busy, we often rush through mealtime. Take one meal of the week where you slow down a little to include the kids. Cook, talk and eat together!

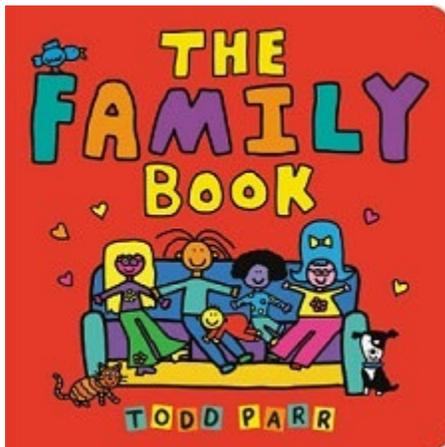


- Read together! Here are a few books about families that you can enjoy.



- All Kinds of Families by Suzanne Lang and Max Lang - <https://youtu.be/Hukxf8H1Sy0>
- One Family by George Shannon - <https://youtu.be/rtPnaNly-04>

To wrap up this email, let's join Teacher Sandy for story called "The Family Book" by Todd Parr - <https://youtu.be/AGZyVllctZ8>



**Vancouver Public Library's Lunar New Year Celebration on Zoom!** Put on your lucky red and join in on Zoom at 10:30am on Thursday February 11th for stories, rhymes, and a puppet show! For more details visit <https://tinyurl.com/ycj6lwgg>

**Vancouver Public Library** has Facebook Live Storytimes, Babytime and Toddlertime on Zoom and Virtual Storytime on YouTube.

- **Toddlertime on Zoom:** <https://vpl.bibliocommons.com/events/search/q=Toddler%20Storytime%20on%20Zoom>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/VPLKidsGroup/permalink/305851480553261/>
- YouTube: [www.youtube.com/user/vancouverlibrary](http://www.youtube.com/user/vancouverlibrary)

