Greetings kids, parents, grandparents, guardians, friends and neighbors!

Welcome to week 3 of our Minis at Home newsletter. Grownups: please work on projects together with your children. Your pARTicipation is important! Minis at Home offers hints and tips for ways to create art as a twosome or a family.

This Week’s Theme: MY FAMILY

There are all types of families! When children talk about themselves and think about what makes them who they are, they usually think about their families. Their family is their world, and it's important to celebrate that world. Talk to children about who makes up their family. This also gives you a great opportunity to talk about how families can be very different from one another. Remind children that family is not limited to members of their immediate household. It may include grandparents, a Mom or Dad who may live in a different house, or a babysitter. Just as each person is unique, so are families. When discussing what makes children who they are, be sure to include their likes and dislikes or what they look like. Young children learn to appreciate differences when you honor their choices and observations. Who is in your family? How is your family different or the same as a friend's family? What does your family look like?

Craft: FAMILY TREE PROJECT (a super simple, project full of fall love!)

Materials:

White paper

Construction paper in fall colors or your family’s favorite colors (for handprints and background)

Brown crayon, paper label removed

Scissors

Glue
Craft: SPOON FAMILY

Do you have plastic spoons lying around from meal take out? Here's a fun way to use them! Create a silly (or serious) spoon family! It can be your own family or a made-up family.

Materials:
- White, black or clear plastic spoons
- Sharpie markers
- Yarn for hair
- Googly eyes (smallish)
- Small pieces of fabric or construction paper scraps (optional)
- Scissors
- Glue
- Thick paper, cardboard or card stock on which to glue your family

Optional: small pieces of Velcro if you want to be able to stick your spoons down and remove from their backing to play with them

Procedure:
- Draw the outline of a tree trunk on a piece of white paper.
- To add texture to the "bark" of the tree, head outside with your trunk outline and a brown crayon (remove the paper on the side of the crayon for easier texture rubbing) and find a tree! Have your grownup help hold the paper against the tree trunk, and then rub lightly using the side of your crayon until you see the bark rubbing come through. It will look like real bark!
- Cut out your tree.
- Trace each family member's hands on construction paper (paper can be in fall colors or any colors you want. How about a different paper color for each family member?). Trace both hands for each family member or just double up one handprint. Don't forget your pet(s)!
Procedure:

- Decorate each spoon so it represents each family member. You can color spoons with Sharpies if you like. Draw or glue on clothes, eyes, hair, or accessories. Small googly eyes look great and yarn works well for hair. You can also cut out clothes for your people.

- Glue your spoon family onto a piece of heavy paper or cardboard if you want. You can paint the background and decorate it by adding by drawing a house around your family with sky, trees, sun and clouds.

Optional idea: If you put small pieces of Velcro on the backs of the spoon handles right below the indentation of the spoon and stick some on your painted background as well, you will be able to take your spoon family members off the background to play with them and then put them back. Make sure you use opposite sides of the Velcro (rough, also known as “hook” side on one and the soft, also known as the “loop” on the other.

Activity: FAMILY SONG

Sing to Each Member of Your Family (including pets!)

(To the tune of "BINGO")

I have a very special friend
And Mommy is her name-o

And Mommy is her name-o

I have a very special friend
And Daddy is his name-o.

And Daddy is his name-o

Etc.
Activity: **FINGER PLAY**

**A House for Me**

This is a nest for Mr. Bluebird (*cup hands together*)

This is a hive for Mrs. Bee (*make a fist*)

This is a hole for bunny rabbit (*make a circle with thumb and forefinger*)

And this is a house for me (*place fingertips together to form a roof peak over head*).

Activity: **MOVEMENT**

**I Love My Family**

Some families are big (*spread arms wide*)
Some families are small (*bring arms closer together*)
But I love my family (*cross arms over chest*)
Best of all!
Me and You Poem

by Constance Del Nero

Me, me, ME, I, I, I
I’m a cute little guy
with dark brown eyes

I, I, I, me, me, ME
I’m a blond little girl
with freckled cheeks

Me, me, ME, I, I, I
I like to eat pasta
and strawberry pie

I, I, I, me, me, me
I like to draw birds
with funny beaks

(& play with my brother:
hide and seek)

Me, me, ME, I, I, I
I like to climb up
on the playground slide

Hear me shout “hi”
from way up high!

I, I, I, me, me, ME
I like to pretend
I’m an owl in a tree

Hear me say whoo
whoo, whoo, whoo, whoo

Hey there you, you, you, you, you!
Tell me what you like to do
Literacy: RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Snuggle up in a big comfy chair and read together

Recommended Books:

*Love Makes a Family* by Sophie Beer

*Are You My Mother* by P. D. Eastman

*Guess How Much I Love You* by Sam McBratney

*Clifford's Family* by Norman Bridwell

*Mr. Seahorse* by Eric Carle

See you next week with issue 4 of *Minis at Home!*

Share your work on [https://www.instagram.com/minimastersaam/](https://www.instagram.com/minimastersaam/)

or email pictures to Ann Hansen

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Creatively yours,

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