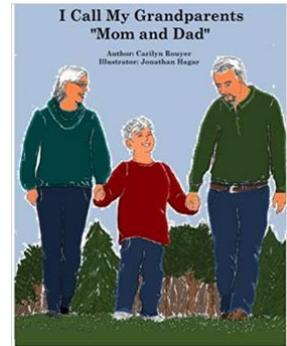


I Call My Grandparents “Mom and Dad”

By Carilyn Rouyer

Kayden calls his grandparents “mom and dad” because they are the ones who are raising him. Kayden shares his story so that other children who are being raised by grandparents know that they are not alone.



Discussion and Questions:

- What is your favorite thing to do with your grandma/pa, aunt/uncle, or mom/dad?
- What are ways that your grandma/pa, aunt/uncle, or mom/dad show love to you?

Activities:

- **It's Spaghetti Time**
 - Before completing this activity, ensure that there are no allergies or sensitivities for the child, family, or class.
 - Cut fully cooked spaghetti into different lengths and give each child several pieces of differing lengths. Encourage children to explore the contents of their plate. Ask children if they can find two pieces of different length.
 - Next, invite them to taste each piece. Next ask if the two pieces taste different as well (they should taste the same).
 - While looking at the book, ask the children to identify the physical features of Kayden's grandparents (i.e., grey hair, wrinkles, older). Discuss that even though Kayden's grandparents did not look the same as other parents, they still loved and cared for Kayden like other parents.
 - Extended ideas and activities for 'All About Me' activities can be found at: <https://www.educatall.com/page/1113/Similarities-and-differences.html>
- **Color Sorting**
 - For this activity gather construction paper of various colors and assorted objects/toys of the same colors. Attach the construction paper securely to the table or floor. Begin to sort the objects by color, placing them on the matching sheet of paper. While doing this discuss similarities between the objects. After all the objects have been sorted, discuss what is different about the objects that are the same color.
 - The main idea of this book is that Kayden's parents are different from other children's parents, yet they love and care for Kayden just like other parents. In this activity children realize that, the objects may be different, but they are all the same color.
 - Additional activities can be found at: <https://www.icanteachmychild.com/toddler-time-simple-color-sorting/>
- **Which one is different?**
 - Gather several identical items and one item that is different, but serves the same purpose. For example, three identical cups and one different cup, or three identical plates and one different plate, and so on. Pictures of items can be printed and used as well.
 - During this activity, ask children to identify which object is different from the others. Then ask them what all of the items in a set do (i.e., all four cups hold a drink).
 - Additional information for activities exploring differences can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3dbs3Xn>