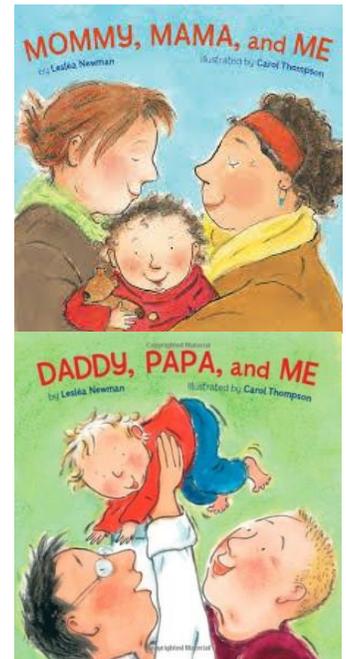


Mommy, Mama, and Me/Daddy, Papa, and Me

By Lesléa Newman

Rhythmic text and illustrations with universal appeal show a toddler spending the day with their parents. From hide-and-seek to dress-up, to bath time and a kiss goodnight, there's no limit to what a loving family can do together. This book highlights the loving bond between parents and their young child.



Discussion and Questions:

- When reading this board book to very small children, point out and label the feelings the characters are expressing. Point to the characters and label them (e.g., mom, dad, baby, sister, etc.). Identify and label actions that show love between the family members.
- For older children considering asking simple questions such as:
 - Who loves you? Who do you love?
 - Who is in your family?
 - What do you like to do with your family?

Activities:

- **Parachute Activities**
 - Gather a parachute and small foam/plastic balls (like those in a ball pit). A bed sheet or tablecloth and paper balls could be used if needed.
 - To focus on teamwork, use the parachute and balls to have a bounce off. As a group, work together to bounce all the balls off the parachute. Groups can also raise the parachute and come together as one underneath.
 - There are many fun games to do with a parachute that can incorporate teamwork, fine and gross motor skills, and can even include music and songs. For more ideas on parachute games, check out <https://bit.ly/1BXOTuC>
- **All About Me!**
 - In a home or group setting, ask children to gather or bring in items, pictures, or artwork that describe them. These items could relate to their family members or friends, places they have visited or lived, unique characteristics about themselves, or anything important to the child.
 - In a group setting have the children take turns and share why one or two of the items they brought are special to them. In a home setting, encourage a child to share as much as they would like to about any of the items they gathered. This activity can be modified to match the child's age and development.
 - For extended ideas for 'All About Me' activities see: <https://bit.ly/2Su7FIS>
- **Family Tree**
 - Supplies: glue, markers, colorful construction paper, copy of a tree without leaves, safety scissors
 - Cut leaves out of construction paper and glue them onto a tree. For very small children, cut the leaves out prior to the activity. Older children can cut the leaves themselves using safety scissors.
 - Children should be encouraged to label the leaves with the names of people they love and who love them, such as family members, friends, teachers, neighbors, and others.
 - Next help children glue the leaves onto the tree. Children should place the leaves wherever they want to on the paper. Assist children as needed.
 - Additional information can be found at: <https://buggyandbuddy.com/9-family-tree-activities-for-kids/>

- **Compare and Contrast**

- Gather a set of child safe items that are similar, but not identical, and allow time for children to play with the items. After playtime, discuss what was the same about the toys and what was different.
- Continue the conversation by sharing the ways in which the toys are fun to play with even though they were not exactly the same. Help older children recognize that differences are not problematic or negative, but are a strength.
- For younger children, choose items that are relevant to them (balls, rattles, soft blankets, body parts, etc.). Encourage caregivers to narrate what they notice that is similar and different between the items.
- Additional information and ways to extend this activity can be found at:
<https://www.teachingwithamountainview.com/2014/08/teaching-children-to-compare-contrast.html>