

TODDLER EXPLORERS

16 TO 24 MONTHS

MY FAMILY (FOR TODDLERS)

MATERIALS:

- PHOTOS OF PEOPLE IN YOUR CHILD'S FAMILY

OBJECTIVES:

- DEVELOP AWARENESS OF FAMILIAL ROLES (SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT)
- NURTURE FAMILIAL BONDS WITH IMPORTANT PEOPLE IN BABY'S LIFE (EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT)
- LANGUAGE: FAMILIAL ROLES

INSTRUCTIONS:

THIS ACTIVITY IS VERY SIMILAR TO OUR BABY STEPS (INFANT) ACTIVITY THIS WEEK, EXCEPT WITH TODDLERS, WE WILL TRY AND LET THEM LEAD MORE OF THE CONVERSATION. CHILDREN TYPICALLY LOVE LOOKING AT PHOTOS OF FRIENDS & FAMILY, AND SINCE TODDLERS ARE BEGINNING TO DEVELOP MORE SPOKEN LANGUAGE, IT CAN BE FUN AND ENRICHING FOR THEM TO TELL YOU ABOUT THEIR FAMILY RATHER THAN THE OTHER WAY AROUND!

- GATHER PHOTOS OF IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF YOUR CHILD'S FAMILY. TEN TO FIFTEEN PHOTOS OF FAMILY MEMBERS WILL WORK WELL TO KEEP A TODDLER'S ATTENTION. TRY TO FIND PHOTOS OF THE FAMILY MEMBERS WITH YOUR CHILD IF POSSIBLE, BUT THIS IS NOT NECESSARY.
- SIT DOWN ON THE FLOOR AT YOUR CHILD'S EYE LEVEL. HOLD UP EACH PHOTO AND ASK "WHO IS THIS?" GIVE THE CHILD A GOOD MOMENT TO THINK AND RESPOND. IF THEY ARE STRUGGLING, YOU CAN OFFER SOMETHING LIKE "THIS IS YOUR AUNT KAREN!" (OR WHATEVER NAME EACH FAMILY MEMBER GOES BY).
- ASK YOUR CHILD TO DESCRIBE THE FAMILY MEMBER, OR SOMETHING IN THE PHOTO, BY ASKING "WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO WITH AUNT KAREN?" OR "DO YOU SEE AUNT KAREN'S PUPPY IN THE PICTURE?" ALLOW THEM TIME TO HOLD EACH PHOTO, EXAMINE IT CLOSELY AND THINK.
- IF YOUR CHILD HAS TROUBLE RECALLING A CERTAIN FAMILY MEMBER THAT MAYBE THEY HAVEN'T SEE IN A WHILE, TRY RECALLING A FAVORITE MEMORY WITH THEM, SUCH AS "DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN WE WENT TO THE PUMPKIN PATCH WITH AUNT KAREN AND YOUR COUSINS?" **TRY THIS EVEN IF YOUR CHILD DOESN'T HAVE A HARD TIME RECALLING THE FAMILY MEMBER. TALKING ABOUT SPECIAL MEMORIES HELPS LOCK THEM INTO OUR LONG-TERM MEMORIES.
- GO THROUGH THE NAME AND PHOTO OF EACH FAMILY MEMBER.
- IF YOU ARE ABLE TO MAKE COPIES OF ORIGINAL PHOTOS OR DON'T MIND IF THEY GET BENT OR LOST, IT WOULD BE FUN TO PUT THESE PHOTOS INTO A SPECIAL ALBUM FOR YOUR TODDLER SO THEY CAN LOOK THROUGH THEM AS THEY PLAY LATER ON.

We'd love to see photos of your at home learning! Tag us on Facebook and Instagram with hashtag #MinnielandAtHome

