

**Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.**

## Activity: family art gallery

**Creating a family art gallery in your setting can help to create a sense of belonging and connection for the children.**

Adding photos and children's artwork of their family members provides opportunities for children to talk about their families and supports the development of social and emotional skills.

### Learning aims

- Provide children with a strong sense of belonging and show children that you value them and their families
- To talk about people who are special to them and show interest in their friends
- Recognise and accept each other as individuals
- Develop mark-making skills and give meaning to the marks.



### Resources

- Ask parents to bring in photos of the children's families – provide plenty of notice and consider letting parents email the picture to you
- Storybooks about families such as *We are family* by Patricia Hegarty, *All About Families* by Felicity Brooks and *The Family Book* by Todd Parr
- Frames and wall space prepared
- Various drawing resources such as chunky pens, crayons, paint, etc.
- Card or paper.

### Activity outline

1. Introduce the activity with a storybook and discuss the family in the story—open conversations about the many different people (and pets) that can make up a family
2. Encourage the children to share their personal stories and memories using the photos as a prompt if needed such as, "Tell us who's in this picture"

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3. Invite children to draw their family; you may find that this leads to lots of discussions about their family members providing a rich opportunity for communication and language development
4. Once their pictures are complete add the child's artwork and photographs to your display
5. Revisit the display at circle time each day talking about the new families that have been added and revisiting the existing ones. Children may become more confident to talk about their family once they have had some time.

### Extension ideas:

- For babies, add their photos to a display at their level so that they can see the pictures, providing a comforting reminder of home
- Add houses, people and photographs of the local area to your small world area, providing opportunities to learn about their wider community
- Use loose parts to make transient art inspired by family members. Provide a range of items such as different-sized stones and empty frames and invite children to make representations of their family.

### NDNA products to support you with this activity:

- Face to face course – [Expressive Arts and Design](#)