

Ideas for Family Activities at the Library

Story in a Jar- A way to provide fun topics for discussion is to create a story jar. Have each family decorate a container, such as an oatmeal canister or canning jar. Then each family member can write a story or conversation starter on a piece of paper and put it in the container. At times when the family is together, have someone draw out a paper and begin the conversation or story. Examples could be, "Three things that made me happy today are...", "My favorite book is_____, and I like it because_____", "A surprising thing about me is....", or "I noticed something_____(fill in family member's name) did today".



Family Place Mats- Give each family member a large piece of construction paper. Have them decorate their place mat using markers, stickers, or magazine pictures. Graphics that center on the Reading Week theme could be used. Mats should be covered with clear contact paper or laminated.

Bookmarks-At a family story time have everyone make bookmarks. There are many ready-made templates on the internet, or they can design their own on cardstock or foam.

Family Squeeze-Have families bring a large blanket to story time. The goal of the activity is to have everyone's body on the blanket without touching the ground around it. After they succeed at that, they fold in a quarter of the blanket and try again. The object of the game is some fun snuggling time and working on problem-solving skills.

Hug Box

Provide each family with a shoe box, or ask them to bring one. Shoe stores will often donate extras that they may have. Cut a slot in the lid of each box with sharp scissors, small paring knives, or box cutters. The family can decorate the box with pictures, markers, or stickers. A pencil can be attached to the box with string and tape. Families can then write kind things about each other, encouragement, or draw a picture to be used as verbal hugs. They can determine a routine of when the box can be opened, so that "hugs" can be shared. Families should be encouraged to add to the box on a regular basis.

These ideas were adapted from: Family Fun @ the Library:
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