

Family Finger Puppets

MATERIALS

FOR STUDENT:

(one per student unless otherwise noted)

- FloraCraft® Make It: Fun® Foam:
 - Block, cut from large Foam Block (see "FOR TEACHER") to 2" x 5" (1 3/16" thick)
 - Balls, 1 1/2" diameter, one-half per family member, approx. three
- Chenille stems, assorted colors, one per family member, approx. six
- Pencil
- Washable fine line markers
- Glue stick
- Paper plate
- Small plastic cup (to hold parts)



FOR TEACHER:

- FloraCraft® Make It: Fun® Foam Block, 1 3/16" x 9 7/8 x 11 7/8" (approx. 10" x 12" x 1 1/4" thick) (You can get twelve pieces from one foam block)
- Cardstock paper (can get 70 - 80 circles per 9" x 12" sheet) –

Cut white, tans, browns, and other skin colors as appropriate for your students.

- Sheet of white address labels
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Serrated knife

- Scissors
- Circle punch, 1" diameter
- Paper towels
- Glue stick
- Glue gun (for teacher only)
- Cutting mat or stack of newspapers

TEACHER PREPARATION

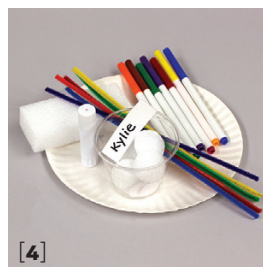
Note: Read through all the instructions first and check out the TIPS! It is recommended that you make one family first, before preparing the materials for the students, since knowing how the parts fit, might affect how you prepare. Also, have a glue gun plugged in and ready to use (ideally set on low temperature) and out of student reach. This can give you immediate adhesion when you're in a hurry to help the students.

[1] Use a serrated knife to cut in half the foam balls, cutting them as evenly as possible. Over a plastic-lined wastebasket, rub together the cut sides to smooth. Also, gently press and roll each one along its edge on the table to smooth and round slightly.

[2] Use a ruler and pencil to measure and mark 2" x 5" rectangles on the foam block. Then, on a cutting mat or stack of newspapers, use a serrated knife against the edge of the ruler to cut the foam block with several passes of the knife for each cut.

[3] Use a 1" diameter circle punch to punch out six cardstock circles per student (in the correct skin colors) plus extras for students with more family members or if they need different colors, or want to re-do any.

[4] Use a permanent marker (or print with a computer/printer) each student's name on a label and cut them apart. On a paper plate for each student, place: Foam block, markers, glue stick, name label and the correct number of foam ball halves, paper circles, and chenille stems for that student.



SOCIAL STUDIES

GRADE LEVEL

EARLY CHILDHOOD – PRE K

COMPLETION TIME

• 30 minutes



OBJECTIVES

Students learn:

- That everyone has a family – usually related to them, sometimes acquired
- How to describe, draw and talk about the members of their family
- To listen and follow step-by-step instructions

STANDARDS

- Develop an awareness of self in the social setting
- Develop an awareness of one's personal connections to others
- Describe people in one's surroundings
- Differentiate relationship circles – from family members to those in the community

LESSON INTRODUCTION

- Explain to the students that everyone has a family – that usually they are people who are related to us, such as parents and siblings, but for some children they are people who are not related but who love and care for them. You can mention that families come in all kinds of combinations. Explain that you're asking them to think about the members of their families and make a finger puppet representing each one, including themselves.
- Explain that they should follow along, one step at a time. Let them know that each student will be making their own puppets, but all doing it together.



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INSTRUCTIONS

[1] Ask the students to keep everything on their paper plates unless they are using it. Demonstrate and have the students draw the features of themselves, first. Ask them to start with their eyes, then nose, mouth and hair, using the marker colors of their features.

Have students continue drawing each member of their family.



[2] Demonstrate and have them apply glue stick to the center of the flat side of one foam ball half. Have them press hard enough to apply enough glue that it goes down into the foam and fills the pores, leaving the surface sticky (instead of applying the glue to the paper). Then have them press the back of their face circle into the glue. Have them repeat with their other family member circles. (Students with fewer family members who finish early, can help other students by holding their foam ball halves as the face circles are attached.)



[3] Have the students check their markers to be sure that the caps are snapped back in place. Demonstrate and have them wrap one chenille stem around one marker, creating a spiral.



[4] Show the students how to bend up one end of the chenille stem spiral so that it can be inserted into the bottom of the foam ball-half "head". Have them connect their head and then, repeat with all of their family members.



[5] Ask the students to peel off the paper backing from their name label and put the label on the bottom of the foam base. Then they can bend down the bottom end of each of their spirals to insert into the foam base.



MODIFICATIONS

To simplify project:

- Have students draw the face circles of their family members in one session, and make the spirals and assemble at the next session.
- Pre-spiral the chenille stems, so that they are ready to go.
- Work in small groups with a helper in each group. Have the students take turns gluing so that one can hold the foam while another applies glue and sets the face circle in place.

To expand project:

- Have students draw their own ideas of how faces would look showing specific emotions.
- Find photos of people who display each of the emotions.
- Make a hand puppet the same way, but instead of using chenille stems, use a glove. An adult can hot glue the heads to each of the five fingers. If a family is larger than five, go to the second glove.

For multiple ages:

- Younger and older students can work side-by-side, making their own puppets, with more detailed face drawings for the older students.
- Have older students draw in pencil before coloring in marker, referencing family photos to be more accurate.

ADDITIONAL IDEAS

- Throughout the year, as the family grows, add additional family members (and pets).
- During an open house, display them on the students' desks and ask visitors to "find their family".
- Design other themes for finger puppets such as animals being studied in science or illustrate a song and rhyme characters such as "Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed".
- Use this for Language Arts to encourage story telling and re-telling.



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TIPS

- When using a punch, turn it over to allow you to see where you're placing the punch on the paper. This lets you conserve paper by making circles very close together, and not accidentally punching off the edge of the paper because you can't see where it's punching.
- A punch has a limited reach and cannot get into the center of a sheet of paper. Punch circles all around the outside. Then, use scissors to trim off excess paper and punch all around the outside again. Continue working your way to the center.
- Have extras of foam ball halves and plenty of various skin-color circles.
- If you prefer that the foam ball-halves be painted, insert toothpicks into bottoms of ball-halves and set into extra foam sheet. In a well-ventilated, newspaper-covered area, spray foam ball-halves with the appropriate skin colors of spray paint, or hand paint using acrylic paint and a brush.
- If students say they don't like what they've drawn and want to start over, have them turn over their circle and use the back, drawing in pencil, first. Then when satisfied, they can trace over their lines with marker.
- Students can make their puppets taller or shorter by stretching or compressing the spirals. If necessary, you can trim a stem with a wire cutter but if you do, either hold both pieces when you cut, or work inside a paper bag to prevent flying pieces.
- Have paper towels ready to distribute to any messy fingers.
- If the name labels come off, apply glue stick directly on the foam and press the label back in place.

REFERENCES

Families, Families, Families by Suzanne Lang
We Belong Together by Todd Parr
Families by Ann Morris
Tell Me Again About The Night I Was Born by Jamie Lee Curtis