

## *The Berenstain Bears* SEE, THINK & DO ACTIVITY GUIDE *The Berenstain Bears* FAMILY & COMMUNITY

### OUR FAMILY FOREST

Exploring family diversity and making "Family" trees.

**Learning Area(s):** Family, Diversity

**Episode: "Family Get-Together" Synopsis:** At a picnic reunion, Brother and Sister learn to appreciate the diversity within the Bear family.

#### Objectives:

Children will:

- \* Discuss what "family" really means.
- \* Listen to a story about family.
- \* Explore the diversity of family types and configurations.
- \* Draw pictures of their own family members.
- \* Create a "Family" tree.

**Grades:** K-2

**McRel Standard(s):** Behavioral Studies - Standard 2.4, Knows that people tend to live in families and communities in which individuals have different roles.

**Core Curriculum Area(s):** Social Studies, Language Arts

**Materials Needed:** large wall or other display space, marker, construction paper, scissors, stapler and/or tape, handout, crayons, glue

#### Think & Do Activity Preparation:

1. Draw a basic tree outline on a large piece of paper and write " \_\_\_\_\_'s Family Tree" on top.
2. Create a bulletin board or display area titled, "Our Family Forest."
3. Photocopy the Bear Family Tree page onto construction paper (one per child).

#### Think & Do Activity Description:

1. Ask children: "What is a family?" and "Who makes up a family?" Then read a story aloud about family diversity.
2. After listening to the story, encourage children to revisit their initial answers to the questions in #1. Do they have anything to add?
3. Share that: a) There are many different family types and make-ups (no one better than another). b) The basic ingredient in each family is love and caring for each member. c) Families may consist of: one caregiver, two parents, close friends, children and/or grandparents, etc. d) Sometimes when parents don't live together, a child can even have two families.
4. Distribute the Bear Family Tree handout and instruct children to make "Family Trees" on which "leaves" represent family members.
5. Encourage children to draw small pictures of their individual family members on each leaf.
6. Next, children (or teacher) should cut out the leaves and paste them onto the child's tree. (If able to write, children label each drawing with the family member's name and relation.)
7. Staple or tape all Family Trees onto the "Our Family Forest" bulletin board display.
8. Encourage each child to share about his or her Family Tree, naming each member.

#### Suggested Reading

"Families are Different" by Nina Pellegrini  
"Fathers, Mothers, Sisters, Brothers" by Mary Ann Hoberman

#### Home Connections

Have students take home the trees and discuss any additional family members that should be added!

#### Teacher Tips

Activity Expansion: Chart the number of members in each child's family, then create a graph for student evaluation.

REPRODUCIBLE PAGE  
**OUR FAMILY FOREST**

