

**NOTE:** September is usually a big transition month at the day home with children leaving the center and new clients starting. These activities are a way for the children, their families and Providers to get to know each other. Remember that even though a specific target is attached to the activity each child will get something different from the experience. We don't expect all children to recognize their names, letters, draw a face or be able to understand the vocabulary. Just having different opportunities to explore the materials independently and with their peers will be a learning experience for all ages.

## **SOCIAL**

### **OUR FAMILIES**

Ask the children to listen to what you are saying and stand up and do the action if what you say is true about them!

Stand up and jump on one foot if you have a brother.

Stand up and spin around if you have a pet.

Stand up and dance if you have a sister.

Have the children standing name them (brother, dog, cat, etc.)

Be sure to help children who aren't sure of the answers (Dee-Dee, you have a baby sister!

Stand up! What is your baby sister's name?)

*You may have to assist some of the children with recognizing if the question you are asking is true for them.*

**Target: sharing ideas**

### **FIVE THINGS ABOUT ME**

Take the opportunity to spend some one on one time with each child to get to know them better.

Have the child place one hand on a sheet of construction paper and trace around it.

Then ask the child to think of five special things about his or herself.

My favorite color, My favorite food, My favorite animal, My favorite toy, My favorite movie etc.

Write each thing the child says on one of the fingers on the hand print.

Later, let each child hold up their hand prints, while you or they tell what is written on each finger. Hang the handprints where the children can look at them. This activity will help you to get to know the children. If you have children that are non verbal you can describe the child on the five fingers. Eye color, hair color, personality traits (happy, smiles) etc. For young children that are non verbal ask the parents about their likes/dislikes. Use the child application to gather information or use your own observations.

Do a handprint for yourself.

**Target: peer interaction**

### **WHO AM I?**

<http://www.pinterest.com/pin/80572280812368895/>

This is a poster that you create and then the children try to label the "eye picture" of each child in the day home. You can change it once a week to hair, hand, feet, ear etc. pictures.

**Target: peer recognition**

### **IN THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD**

In this whole wide world, (make a circle with your two arms)

I can clearly see. (put fingers around your eyes, looking through)

There is only one of you. (point to other person)

And there is only one of me. (Point to yourself)

**Target: peer interaction**

### **GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER**

In advance, using your experiences with the child or the application and or discussion with the parent if the child is new, create 5 "clues" about the child (i.e. I have a dog named Spot, I have a blanket on my bed with Star Wars, I have 2 sisters, My favorite ice cream is chocolate, and I have a swing set in my backyard, I am 4 years old etc.). I stress that the clues must be obvious to the child, but to put their name on the form just in case.

During the week, read out the forms each and the children guess who they think it is. They have a ball with this and usually are able to pick themselves out.

**Target: peer recognition**

### **FAMILY TREES**

<https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/family-tree-activity-for-kids-sensory-play/>

**Target: peer interactions**

### **PHYSICAL**

#### ***Gross Motor***

#### **SEE NOW WHAT I CAN DO**

Tune: "Hokey-Pokey"

Oh, I can reach up high,

Oh, I can reach down low.

Oh, I can clap real fast.

Oh, I can clap real slow.

I can do so many things,

I can twirl around.

That's what I can do!

Invite your children to act out the song. Create additional verses substituting other action words for "reach" and "clap", such as "point" or "march".

**Target: balance**

#### **BODY REFLEX GAME**

<https://www.pre-kpages.com/body-reflexes-action-game/>

**Target: coordination**

#### **HOW DO I MOVE?**

Let your children think of different ways they move their bodies.

Then tell them that you will play a moving game with them.

Name a way for the children to move their bodies, such as hopping, jumping, crawling, tip-toeing, walking backward, dancing slowly, spinning quickly.

Have the children move their bodies that way.

Repeat with other movement words.

Variation: Let your children take turns naming a way for everyone to move.

**Target: muscle coordination**

## **RUNAWAY**

I have two eyes to see with,  
I have two feet to run,  
I have two hands to wave with,  
And nose I have but one.  
I have two ears to hear with,  
And a tongue to say 'good day!'  
And two red cheeks for you to kiss,  
And now I'll run away.

**Target: balance**

## ***Fine Motor***

### **HAND PRINTS**

Set out pans or plates of paint and some paper.  
Have children press their hands into the paint and make impressions on the paper.  
When dry, attach the following poem to each painting and let your children take them home.  
Discuss the differences in the sizes and shapes of the hands. After the pictures have dried see if the children can guess which hand picture belongs to which child

Here are my hands, so tiny and small,  
For you to hang upon the wall.  
For you to watch, as the years go by,  
How fast they grow, my hands and I.  
Author Unknown

**Target: hand coordination**

### **FINGERPRINTS**

Trace the child's hand. Use paint or an ink pad to put their fingerprints on the handprint. Write the name of the corresponding child on the handprint. Place magnifying glasses in the area where you have the handprints. The children can look at their fingerprints through the magnifying glass.

**Target: eye hand coordination**

## **INTELLECTUAL**

### ***Language***

#### **NO ONE LIKE ME**

There's no one who is just like me,  
No one who knows how to be:  
Me when I am mad or sad.  
Me when I am very glad.  
There's no one who's just like me.  
Me is who I'm proud to be

**Target: rhyming**

### **THERE IS NO ONE LIKE ME**

There is no one just like me  
Look around and you will see  
There is no one like me to be found  
Some are short and some are tall  
Some are big and some are small  
I am very special because I'm me!

**Target: confidence**

### **ERASE ME RHYMING ACTIVITY**

<https://growingbookbybook.com/erase-me-rhyming-activity/>

**Target: labeling**

### **SPECIAL ME**

Special, special, special me  
How I wonder what I'll be  
In this big world I can be  
Anything I want to be  
Special, special, special me  
How I wonder what I'll be

**Target: self esteem**

### **READ A BOOK**

Chose a book from the list below or read one that you may already have on hand.

**Target: vocabulary**

### **All About Me Books**

[All by Myself \(Little Critter\) \(Look-Look\)](#) by Mercer Mayer

[Here Are My Hands](#) by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault

[I Like Me! \(Picture Puffins\)](#) by Nancy Carlson

[Just Because I Am: A Child's Book of Affirmation](#) by Lauren Murphy

[My Book About Me](#) by Dr. Seuss

### **Books About Family**

[Just Me and My Mom \(A Little Critter Book\)](#) by Mercer Mayer

[My Mom and Dad Make Me Laugh](#) by Nick Sharratt

[RELATIVES CAME](#) by Cynthia Rylant

### **Families Poem**

Some families are large. (spread arms out wide)  
Some families are small (bring arms close together)  
But I love my family (cross arms over chest) best of all!

**Target: rhyming**

### **Cognitive**

**NAME SOUP** (click on the link for directions) **Target: letter recognition**

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/445082375654627775/>

### **FIND MY FAMILY SENSORY BIN**

[http://www.simplylearningkids.com/2016/04/find-family-sensory-bin/?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=pinterest&utm\\_campaign=tailwind\\_tribes&utm\\_content=tribes](http://www.simplylearningkids.com/2016/04/find-family-sensory-bin/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=pinterest&utm_campaign=tailwind_tribes&utm_content=tribes)

**Target: matching**

### **NAME MATCHING ACTIVITY**

There is some prep work involved in this activity.

<https://earlylearningideas.com/name-matching-cards-and-name-activities/>

**Target: name recognition**

### **FACE MIX AND MATCH**

Really simple face mix and match activity. You may want to laminate the pictures to make them more durable.

[http://littlepeoplelearn.blogspot.ca/2011/05/playing-with-photos\\_24.html](http://littlepeoplelearn.blogspot.ca/2011/05/playing-with-photos_24.html)

**Target: matching**

**NAME LETTER MATCH** (click on the link for directions) **Target: letter recognition**

<https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/originals/8a/60/8f/8a608f92bc2d2a98ae117f3b5dcf9af0.jpg>

### **SHOE MATCHING**

Have each of your children take off one shoe.

Place the shoes in the middle of the room.

When you clap your hands, have the children go to the pile and find their matching shoe.

**Target: matching**

**Variation-** Jacket matching. Have the children take turns matching the items to the other children in the center

### **MEASURE ME**

Give the children a string and scissors. Have one child lie down and let them measure how tall he is and then cut the string. Later the children can compare their strings and show them to their families. VARIATION: get out a scale and have the children weigh themselves.

**Target: measuring**

### **I AM SPECIAL SONG**

<https://teachpreschool.org/2010/09/01/i-am-special/>

**Target: repetition**

### **NAME RECOGNITION**

<https://munchkinsandmoms.com/clothespin-name-recognition-activity/>

**Target: letter recognition**

## **CREATIVE**

### **WHERE ARE YOU SENSES**

Trace your children on a large piece of paper. Have them either write, draw, or place stickers on the different places where their senses are (for instance draw a flower on your nose, a violin on your ear, etc.) You can do this activity as a group.

**Target: creativity**

### **ALL ABOUT ME SENSORY BIN**

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/212021094935351504/>

**Target: sensory**

### **ALL ABOUT ME SENSORY BIN**

<http://totallytots.blogspot.ca/2011/07/whats-in-tub-all-about-me.html>

**Target: sensory**

### **I LIKE.....**

Materials Needed: A small picture of each child, magazines, scissors, glue, crayons, construction paper

The children glue their picture on the construction paper. They cut out or rip pictures from magazines of things that they like such as: dogs, cats, flowers, different foods, etc.

**Target: making choices**

## **EMOTIONAL**

### **ALL ABOUT ME BOOK**

<https://teachingmama.org/all-about-me-preschool-theme/>

**Target: self expression**

### **PAINT MY SHADOW**

<http://rhythmsofplay.com/shadow-art-outdoor-science/>

**Target: self-recognition**

### **I'M SPECIAL MIRROR ACTIVITY**

Click on the link for instructions for this activity. It involves a song and the children looking at themselves in a mirror and watching their face as they make different expressions.

<https://www.teachpreschool.org/2010/09/01/i-am-special/>

**Target: - self expression**

## **EXPRESSIONS**

Place pictures of children showing different expressions (laughing, surprised, mad, crying, smiling, etc.) Put a mirror next to the pictures and let them try copying the expressions.

**Target: self-expression.** There is a set of expression pictures that were sent as an attachment with this email.

## **Life Size Me**

- Large roll of brown wrapping paper (Dollar Store)
- A set of each child's clothing
- An 8 by 10 picture of each child's face

Have the child lay on a piece of long brown wrapping paper that is doubled over and trace them. Have the child cut out their body shape. Staple the 2 pieces of paper together leaving a 4 inch opening at the top in bottom. Have the children scrunch up old newspapers and flyers to stuff into their "body". Once the paper body is full staple both of the openings.

**VARIATION:** You can also have the children just cut out a single piece of paper and then draw on a face and clothes. You can also have the parents bring extra clothes on the day you are doing this activity so they can dress their person up exactly like them.

**Target: self-recognition**

## **I LIKE ME**

I like me, I like me

I'm wild about myself and I like me,

I like me my pictures on the shelf

I take myself to the picture show

I take myself wherever I go

I like me, I like me

I'm wild about myself

**Target: self confidence**

## **WHO IS IT?**

Materials Needed: A large box with a hand mirror in it. Tell the children there is someone special in the box. Pass it around the art table and let them shake and guess what is in it without looking. When they have each had a turn, take out the mirror, pass it around and have the children look at the special person-them! Provide paper plates and miscellaneous arts and crafts supplies for them to make their own face! **Target: self esteem**

