

# PRESCHOOL EXPLORERS

24 TO 36  
MONTHS  
TRADITIONAL

## MY FAMILY: SENSORY BIN

### MATERIALS:

- SMALL PHOTOS OF IMPORTANT FAMILY MEMBERS IN THE CHILD'S FAMILY (IF YOU CAN, GET A LARGE ENOUGH PHOTO THAT YOU CAN CUT OUT JUST THE INDIVIDUAL FAMILY MEMBER, OR THEIR FACE IF IT IS ROUGHLY THE SIZE OF A QUARTER OR THE PALM OF YOUR CHILD'S HAND)
- A MEDIUM-SIZED BIN, AT LEAST THE SIZE OF A 9 X 13 CAKE PAN, OR ANOTHER DEEP DISH THAT CAN HOLD PEBBLES, COFFEE BEANS, OR OTHER MATERIAL A SMALL CHILD CAN DIG IN
- COFFEE BEANS (OR PEBBLES, COFFEE GROUNDS, SHREDDED PAPER) TO FILL THE BIN WITH

### OBJECTIVES:

- SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL: RECOGNIZE AND IDENTIFY FAMILIAL RELATIONSHIPS
- SENSORY EXPLORATION
- PRACTICE FOLLOWING SIMPLE DIRECTIONS
- PRACTICE FINE MOTOR SKILLS (DIGGING, PICKING, SORTING)

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- CUT OUT PHOTOS OF FAMILY MEMBERS (10 OR SO SHOULD WORK WELL), EITHER CUTTING OUT THE WHOLE BODY OR JUST THE FACE OF EACH FAMILY MEMBER. PIECES SHOULD BE ANY WHERE FROM THE SIZE OF A QUARTER TO THE SIZE OF A SMALL BOOKMARK SO YOU CAN BURY THEM IN THE SENSORY BIN
- FILL YOUR BIN OR PAN WITH YOUR BEANS, PEBBLES, SAND OR OTHER MATERIAL
- BURY THE PHOTO CUT OUTS OF YOUR CHILD'S FAMILY MEMBERS
- ASK YOUR CHILD TO FIND EACH OF THE FAMILY MEMBERS IN THE SENSORY BIN. ENCOURAGE THEM TO DIG THROUGH THE BIN TO UNCOVER EACH FAMILY MEMBER.
- IF YOUR CHILD IS ON THE YOUNGER SIDE OF TWO YEARS OLD, YOU CAN KEEP A DUPLICATE COPY OF EACH FAMILY MEMBER THAT IS IN THE BIN SO YOU CAN SHOW THEM A PICTURE AS YOU SAY "CAN YOU FIND GRANDPA?" (OR ANY OTHER FAMILY MEMBER)
- AS THEY FIND EACH FAMILY MEMBER, ASK THEM SOMETHING THEY MIGHT RECALL ABOUT THAT FAMILY MEMBER, SUCH AS "DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN GRANDPA TOOK YOU TO THE BEACH?" OR IF THEY ARE OLDER, "CAN YOU TELL ME SOMETHING YOU LIKE TO DO WITH GRANDPA?"
- ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO DIG AND PLAY IN THE SENSORY BIN AS LONG AS THEY ARE CONTENT. NOT ONLY CAN THIS ACTIVITY HELP BOOST UNDERSTANDING OF FAMILY AND RELATIONSHIPS, BUT SENSORY PLAY IS CALMING TO YOUNG CHILDREN WHICH HELPS WITH THEIR EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING AS WELL.

We'd love to see photos of your at home learning! Tag us on Facebook and Instagram with hashtag #MeritSchoolAtHome

