



HELLO PARENTS,

How Does Learning Happen? is a professional learning resource guide which promotes an understanding of how children develop and learn, and how to support their natural strengths and capabilities through relationships. The resource is organized around four foundations of learning: belonging, well-being, engagement, and expression. These four foundations apply to all children regardless of their age, ability, culture, language, geography, or setting. They are the vision for all children's future potential and a view of what they should experience each and every day. We are starting a series of newsletters that will focus on how learning happens at home through the lens of these four foundations. We will start with belonging. Belonging is about having a secure relationship or a connection with a particular group of people. Developing a sense of belonging from a young age allows children to feel confident in exploring new ideas, engaging in learning, and expressing themselves. In this newsletter, we will provide you with activities to help children build a sense of belonging at home and in the community.

ACTIVITIES

INFANTS (3 – 18 MONTHS)

I AM MY PHYSICAL SELF

DIRECTIONS:

- Encourage your child to play with their own hands and feet.
- Name the body parts that they touch, move or look at.
- Encourage your child to touch your hands and feet.
- Name your body parts that they touch or look at.
- Gradually, your child will learn about their own body and compare the sensations with touching someone else.

[Click here](#) to listen to the song "This is Me"

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

IT BELONGS TO ME

MATERIALS:

- Collection of different items that belong to family members. For example, toys, scarves, shoes, etc

DIRECTIONS:

- Sit with your child and bring out the different items.
- Pick one item at a time and show it to your child.
- Let your child call out to whom this item belongs and give it to them.

[Click here](#) to listen to the song "Finger Family Song"

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

MY PERSONAL BASKET

MATERIALS:

- Basket
- Picture of your child
- Tape
- Scissors
- Markers
- Paper

DIRECTIONS:

- Encourage your child to cut their picture and tape it to the basket.
- Have your child write their name (in their own meaningful way) on a small piece of paper using markers.
- Tape the name next to their picture on the basket.
- Explain to your child that this basket belongs to them and they can put their personal stuff in it. For example, toys, craft, etc.
- Encourage your child to collect their special belongings in their basket.

[Click here](#) to read "Little Elliot Big Family" by Mike Curato.



JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

ALL ABOUT ME COLLAGE

MATERIALS:

- Poster
- Markers
- Scissors
- Glue
- Old magazines and newspapers
- Camera (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

- Sit with your child and discuss with them how they would like to create their personal poster.
- You can use these questions to help your child brainstorm ideas:
 - What is your favourite food?
 - What is your favourite toy?
 - Who is your best friend?
 - What music do you like?
 - What are your favourite holidays?
- Encourage your child to draw themselves in the middle of the poster and write their name under their picture.
- Select pictures from the magazines and newspapers which reflect what they like or are interested in. Cut and glue them on the poster.
- You can take a video or picture of your child while they are presenting the poster, share it on social media or with friends and family.

[Click here](#) to read "Me and My Family Tree" by Joan Sweeney.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

COMPARE COUNTRIES PROJECT

MATERIALS:

- A large piece of paper
- Internet or library access
- Markers

DIRECTIONS:

- Sit with your family and share stories about your heritage, hometown, traditions, etc.
- Use online or library resources to research information about the country where you live now and the country where you or your family are originally from.
- Look for the information about the flag, language, food, music, education, holidays, etc.
- Study the collected information for similarities and differences between the two countries.
- Create a graphic organizer or use the template [Comparing Countries Work Sheet](#) to help you complete your project.
- Write simple statements or a brief essay comparing the two countries.
- Present your project to your friends or family.

[Click here](#) to read "The Name Jar" by Yangsook Choi.

[Click here](#) to read "I Belong! Developing themselves as a member of a community".

A TIP FOR TODAY

- Create opportunities that enable your child to explore, wonder about, care for, and make connections to their natural environment.
- Connect with your child and recognize and value their unique spirit, individuality, and presence.
- Teach your child to show concern and empathy, and to take action to assist others.
- Help your child build positive relationships with others.