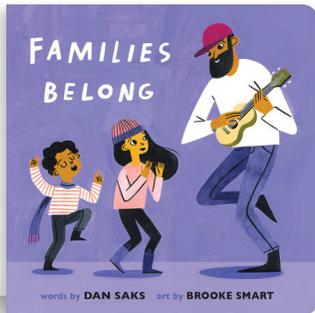## FAMILIES BELONG written by Dan Saks

A classic children's book!

Dan Saks is a musician and a music educator specializing in early childhood education. He currently lives in Brooklyn, New York with his family. Dan has a podcast that he produces in New York called **Noodle Loaf**, that brings families together to learn music and fundamentals through play.

Check out Noodle Loaf here: www.noodleloaf.com

›› BEFORE READING

Share the song and get children excited about the book.

"Families sing with voices bellowing, songs that make us giggle…"

Sing another short song with a bellowing voice to practice that new word.

Sing along: **www.youtube.com/ watch?v=sbHwoekVuQI**

Ask the Children Questions:

Who are your family members?

What do you do as a family that is fun?

What does family mean to you?

Do you sing together?

Do you fit together in one big snuggle?

›› READ THE STORY

Use lots of excitement and action during the story. Take time to elaborate on how families can be different. There can be families with a bonus mom or dad, brothers and sisters who live with the family some of the time. Some families speak additional languages, families don't all have the same eye or hair color, sometimes families have different skin tone. Families eat different types of food and some food is specific to culture and heritage, like soups called borscht, or wohanpi made with wild turnips called timpsila. Sometimes grandparents live with a family. Families are made of people who love each other. Sometimes families have pets too.

›› AFTER READING

Teach the song and do some words in sign language.

›› ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY ONE: RAINBOW RAIN (TODDLERS/ PRESCHOOLERS)

Steam activity from: Awesome Science Experiments for Kids: 100+ fun STEM/STEAM Projects and Why They Work; written by Crystal Chatterton.

Supplies needed: Mineral oil, clear glass or plastic cup, several smaller cups, water, food coloring, plastic pipette or medicine dropper

››

Black Hills READS

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› Pour about 1 cup of mineral oil into a clear cup and set aside.

› Fill several smaller cups with water. Add a few drops of food coloring to each one to create a variety of different-colored water.

› Use a medicine dropper or pipette and gently drip colored water into the clear oil.

Observations and Questions: What happened when water was added to the oil? Water and oil don't mix so the water drops that you put into the oil will sink to the bottom.

ACTIVITY TWO: ARTS/MUSIC; MARACAS (INFANT/TODDLER/PRESCHOOL)

Supplies needed (per child): Plastic Easter egg, 2 plastic spoons, *bells, rice, beans, washers, pennies*, decorative Duct tape or washi tape

› Place several of one or two types of the *bold items in the plastic egg.

› Close the egg and tape around the egg.

› Place the spoons around the egg. Tape around the egg and again to hold the spoons together to make a handle, see the photo.

ACTIVITY THREE: FAMILY TREE (INFANTS/TODDLERS)

Supplies needed: Picture of each student and their family, tree for wall can be made from large roll paper or poster board, paint for the tree (can also be made with large construction paper.

Share that each family has special people in it.

Mommy, Daddy, a bonus Mommy or Daddy, maybe another brother or sister. Families also include cousins, Grandmas, and Grandpas who may live with them as well. It's good to share that family is still family even if they don't get to see each other all the time. If things are hard in our families, other family members or families are there for love and to take care of children.

› Make the tree ahead of time to fit your sharing space.

› Each child can bring a family picture(s).

› Share by putting them up on the tree in the classroom so children can see their family.

ACTIVITY FOUR: FAMILY TREE (PRESCHOOL)

Supplies needed: Template (found at end of document), 3 colors of construction paper for the tree, glue, scissors

› Trace each template piece onto the chosen color of construction paper.

› Students cut out the tree top, stump and leaves. Each leaf represents one person in their family.

› Glue the leaves onto the tree and label each leaf.

ACTIVITY FIVE: FELT FAMILIES (INFANTS/ TODDLERS/PRESCHOOLERS) FINE MOTOR

Supplies needed: Hot glue gun, at least 5 colors of felt, including skin tones, scissors, felt board.

> Use felt pieces to cut out bodies and extremities of different ethnicities, glue them together.

> Cut out circles for the heads and triangles for skirts for some of the girls' bodies, rectangles for bodies, and smaller rectangles for arms, and legs.

> Use extra material to create the hair by gluing it on top of the heads or around the heads. Color in eyes with sharpie.

> As you read along, children take turns to place people on the felt board.

ACTIVITY SIX: SIGN LANGUAGE (INFANTS/ TODDLERS/PRESCHOOLERS) GROSS MOTOR SKILLS

Follow along with the song and teach the sign language along with it. Words in blue are noted when you sign.

https://www.facebook.com/ watch/?v=2054127598220291

FAMILIES BELONG (FAMILIES)
TOGETHER LIKE A SONG
DESERVES TO BE SUNG
FAMILIES BELONG (FAMILIES)
TOGETHER (TOGETHER)
TOGETHER
FAMILIES THEY CARE (FAMILIES)

WHEN NO ONE ELSE IS THERE
THEY FILL A HOME WITH LOVE (LOVE)
THEY GIVE THE BIGGEST HUGS (HUG)
TOGETHER (TOGETHER)
TOGETHER
FAMILIES THEY FEEL (FAMILIES)
WHEN OTHERS ARE IN NEED
IF YOUR FAMILY SHOULD CALL (PRETEND LIKE YOU CALLING BY PUTTING HAND UP BY EAR)
I'LL TELL THEM WE CAN ALL
WORK TOGETHER (WORK TOGETHER)
BE TOGETHER
LOVE TOGETHER (LOVE) (TOGETHER)
LOVE TOGETHER
TOGETHER (TOGETHER)

TOGETHER

FAMILIES

LOVE

WORK

TOGETHER

HUG

>> THANKS TO OUR CREATORS:

> Betty Jo Huff   > Cary A. Thrall

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Family Tree Diagram

Cut out templates and trace onto colored paper. Cut out as many leaves as family members you're including.

Leaves

Stump

Tree top