An early learning collaboration by:

**Importance of Community**

September 2020

Books listed below are available in e-book or regular book format for pick up at your local library.

**Monthly Activity**

As we stay socially distant from those in our family and community whom we care about, it's a good time to reach out and remind them how important they are. Try this fun activity to keep those bonds strong even when far away.

**Showing We Care**

1. With markers or crayons, help your child draw a page full of hearts.
2. Ask your child to share a kind message they’d like to give to a friend or family member. Then, write each message down in a separate heart with the person's name.
3. Give your child an opportunity to color the hearts with bright colors, patterns, or objects that remind them of their loved ones.
4. Help your child cut out the hearts and hide them to surprise each person (if they live with your child). If that person lives elsewhere, help your child send the surprise heart by mail, leave in a visible location, or send a picture of their surprise heart.
5. Ask your child, "How do you think ______ will feel when they find this surprise?" or "What are other ways we can show love and thanks to those we care about?"

This activity is inspired by Sesame Street in Communities’ activity “Showing We Care.”

**Building Literacy for Dual Language Learners**

Is there more than one language spoken in your home? Research says, the more languages, the better! Young children are especially good at picking up new languages, so now is the time to read, speak, and sing with your child in multiple languages. Dual language learners tend to develop greater memory, reasoning, and problem solving skills. Pick one of several books above that are offered in English and Spanish to get started!

**Monthly Family Reading Tip**

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