An early learning collaboration by:

Celebrating Diverse Families
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Start a love of reading, one book at a time!

Family Activity

Little expressions of love are like seeds in a garden. If you plant them, they can grow into feelings of confidence and joy. Check out this activity to help you and your little one express love for your family.

"I Love You" Garden

1. Talk with your child about little things you love about them. Say, "I love you because. . ." then finish the sentence.
2. Ask your child to think of some things they love about you or other family members and use the same sentence format.
3. Help your child create an "I Love You" garden by writing your "I love you" statements all over a piece of paper. Be sure to include some of the statements from steps 1 & 2.
4. Next, ask your child to draw flowers or other nature items around each statement.
5. Then, display the picture at home. Show your children you love them everyday and watch them bloom!

This activity is inspired by Sesame Street in Communities’ activity, "I Love You Because’ Garden."

Family Reading Tip: "Pretend Read"

If your child wants to pick up a book and imitate the act of reading, that’s great! Even if your child can’t yet sound out the words on the page, it is still helpful for them to experience, early on, the physical tasks of reading. While turning pages and learning to identify the start, end, top and bottom of a book, encourage your child to point to the pictures and make up a story. Let the imagination begin!

All books are available at your local libraries or click on each book cover for read-aloud links!