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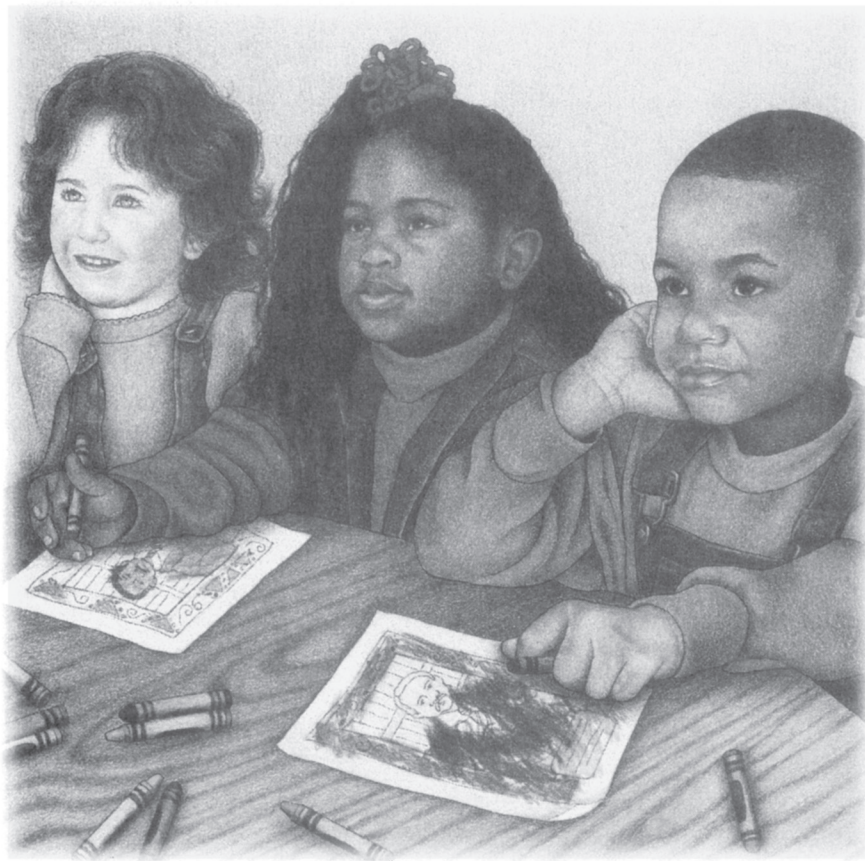
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African American Awareness *for Young Children*

A C U R R I C U L U M



By Dr. Evia L. Davis

 GOOD YEAR BOOKS

Dedicated to my children:

*Nicole Titilayo Davis
Mark Hosea Davis II*

Acknowledgments

In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths. Proverbs 3:6

A special thank you to my husband, Dr. Mark H. Davis, for his guidance, support, and constant prayers.

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Chapter

1

The Family

This unit consists of five lessons on identifying family members, with activities to assist children in understanding the concept of mother, father, boy, girl, and baby. Moreover, the lesson leads children to understand that they are members of a family. A short synopsis is provided about each suggested story. Lessons are developmentally appropriate and are based on research findings that indicate children can benefit from explicit cognitive training at very early age levels. Skills are embedded into each lesson's activities.

OBJECTIVES

1. To promote a sense of identity and responsibility as a family member
2. To recognize storytelling as an important part of transmitting African American culture
3. To help children develop a positive self-concept
4. To encourage children to identify family members (mother, sister, brother, father, grandmother, etc.)

Lesson 1-1

Mother

Skill Areas:

Language, Cognitive, Gross Motor, Visual Motor, Fine Motor, Social

Circle Time:

Invite mothers to visit the classroom. For those children who cannot bring mothers, ask them to bring a photograph or drawing of their mother. Ask, "Whose Mom is this?" Introduce all mothers. Allow children of the mothers to present "special day" crowns to each. Involve parents in a special activity with the class.

Paint:

Have children make handprints for mothers. Print this poem for children:

*Sometimes you get discouraged
Because I am so small
And always leave my fingerprints
on furniture and walls.
But, everyday I'm growing—
I'll be grown up someday,
And all these tiny fingerprints
Will surely fade away.
So here's a final hand print,
Just so you can recall
Exactly how my fingers looked
When I was very small.
—Unknown*

Creative:

Provide children with magazines showing African American women (*Ebony*, *Jet*, *Essence*), as well as women of other races. Have children cut out pictures and paste on construction paper to make a collage of mothers.

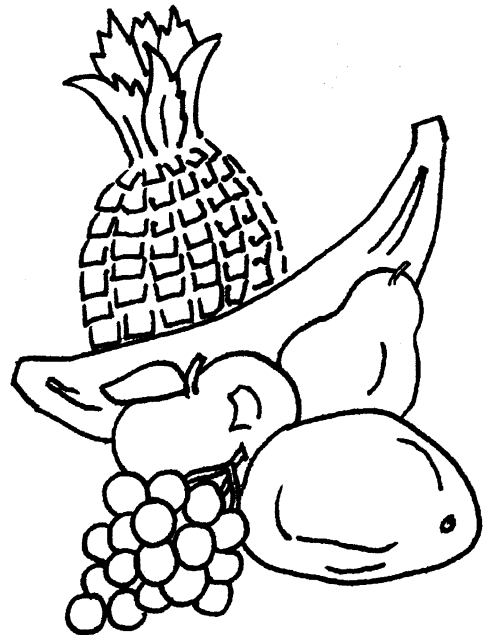
Dramatic Play:

Encourage children to "dress-up" and role-play going to a Mother's Day Tea. Provide props and clothing, for example, hats, caps, dresses, pants, wallets, purses, shoes, teacups, saucers, tea kettles, chairs, and tables.

Snack:

African Fruit Salad

Discuss with the children that a variety of fruits grow in Africa. Tell them that fruits are a significant part of the African diet. Many Africans grow fruits in their garden or buy fresh fruits from an outdoor market.



Recipe:

African Fruit Salad

(Serves 15)

2 cups pineapple chunks

2 apples

2 pears

4 ripe mangoes

1 c sugar

2 c water

1 T lemon juice

4 bananas

1 c raisins

Drain pineapple chunks and set aside in a large mixing bowl. Peel, slice, and cube apples, pears, and mangoes. Add them to the large mixing bowl. Boil sugar with water to make syrup. Allow to cool and add lemon juice. Pour syrup over fruit. Just before serving, peel and slice the bananas. Add bananas and raisins and toss.

Story:



Finger Play:

This is my mother. (thumb)

This is my father. (pointer finger)

This is my brother tall. (middle finger)

This is my sister. (ring finger)

This is the baby. (pinkie)

Oh! How I love them all. (clap left hand over all five fingers)

—Unknown

Story:

“Ma Brown”

(Grandmother)

Once upon a time, there lived a lady named Caroline Brown. We called her “Ma Brown.” Ma Brown was my grandmother. She lived in a rural community called “Browning.” Many of the people who lived there had the last name Brown.

My grandmother was smart and wise! She cooked her meals on a wooden stove and sewed quilts by hand. Ma Brown always grew big gardens with lots of vegetables and fruits. She raised chickens and planted and chopped cotton every year.

Caroline Brown was also a licensed midwife. She delivered more than 5,000 babies, and she even delivered me! My grandmother at age 97 was featured in Ebony magazine in the December 1975 issue (page 116). Ma Brown lived to be 102 years of age. She was born December 25, 1878 (Christmas Day). Ma Brown—what a woman!

Lesson 1-2

Baby

Skill Areas:

Language, Cognitive, Gross Motor, Visual Motor, Fine Motor, Social

Circle Time:

If possible, invite to class a mother who has a baby. Discuss the responsibilities parents have for their babies. Talk about importance of cleanliness and display the various items used for bathing and grooming.

Paint Area:

Precut oatmeal or grits boxes to make baby cradles. Encourage children to decorate with paint and lace.

Fine Motor:

Provide children with magazine pictures depicting African American babies. Have children paste pictures of babies and baby items on construction paper to make a collage.

Dramatic Play:

Provide baby dolls for children to bathe and dress. The water table will make an excellent bathtub.

Blocks:

Encourage children to build a playpen, using large blocks.

Snack:

Applesauce and animal crackers.

Gross Motor:

Have children crawl like a baby.

Stories:

She Come Bringing Me That Little Baby Girl

Baby Says

Everett Anderson's Nine Month Long

More, More, More, Said the Baby

Finger Play:

Baby Mark

Handsome Baby Mark

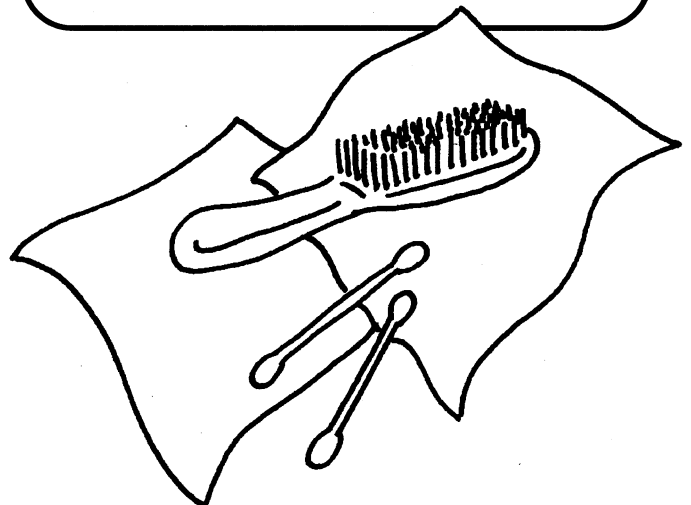
(Lay hand in hand and move arms let to right.)

Dimples so deep

(Smile.)

On his little chubby cheeks!

(Point to cheeks.)



Lesson 1-3

Father

Skill Areas:

Language, Cognitive, Gross Motor, Fine Motor, Visual Motor, Social

Circle Time:

Invite fathers to visit the classroom. For those children who cannot bring fathers, ask them to bring a photograph or drawing of their father. Ask, "Whose Dad is this?" Introduce all fathers. Allow children to present "special day" crowns to each father. Involve parents in a special activity with the class.

Paint:

Provide a house shape for each child, using butcher paper and a black crayon. Each child will paint the house the color of his or her choice. Add the child's name and address to the picture.

Have children make footprints for their fathers. Print the poem "Father" for children (at right).

Creative:

Provide magazines with pictures depicting African American men (*Ebony*, *Jet*, *Essence*), as well as men of other races. Have children make a collage of fathers.

Dramatic Play:

Encourage the children to play "dress-up." Provide articles of men's clothing such as hats, ties, shoes, pants, and so on.

Blocks:

Provide cars, trucks, animals, and large and small blocks.

Snack:

Gingerbread cookies and milk.

Gross Motor:

Play the "Gingerbread Game." Encourage children to run and try to catch the child who is the "gingerbread man." Encourage children to say, "Run, run, as fast as you can. You can't catch me. I'm the gingerbread man." (This activity should be done outdoors or in a large area.)

Story:

Jafta

Poem:

"Father"

*Father, Father,
Strong and tall!
Father, Father,
He hears my call!
Father, Father,
Always on the go!
Father, Father
I love him so!*

—Dr. Mark H. Davis

Lesson 1-4

Girl

Skill Areas:

Language, Cognitive, Gross Motor, Visual Motor, Fine Motor, Social

Circle Time:

Have children form a circle and then have all the girls in the classroom stand in front of the circle. Ask, "Who are they?" Say, "Yes, they are girls. Today will be the girls' 'special day.'" Give a head crown to each girl as she says her full name. Encourage girls to use complete sentences. For example, "My name is Nicole Titilayo Davis." Read the story *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters*.

Fine Motor:

Provide each child with a medium-sized brown paper circle, a tongue depressor, crayons, and yarn to create a girl puppet.

Paint:

Make potato prints. "Provide pre-cut potatoes, cut out with facial features to represent a girl's face. Have each child dip the cutout face of the potato in brown paint and press it onto construction paper.

Gross Motor:

Show the children how to skip, saying "step-hop, step-hop" as you demonstrate.

Stories:

Do Like Kyla

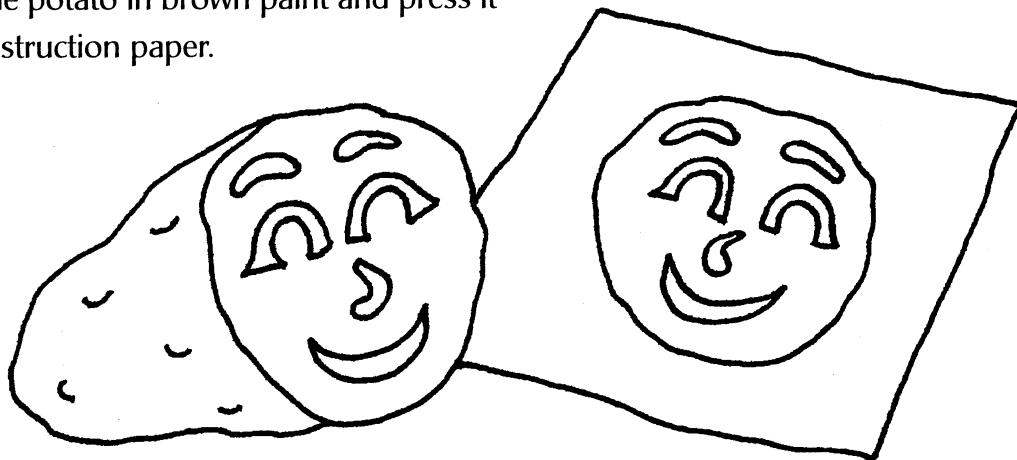
Jenny

Messy Bessey

Snack:

Baked Yams

Yams are grown in many areas of Africa. They are a common diet staple for many African families. Let children wash yams and wrap in foil. Bake at 350° F for 1 hour. Cool and slice them, and have the boys be the servers since it is the girls' special day. Have butter, sugar, and cinnamon available so that children can experiment with different tastes for yams.



Lesson 1-5

Boy

Skill Areas:

Language, Cognitive, Gross Motor, Visual, Fine Motor

Circle Time:

Have all the boys in the classroom stand in front of the circle. Ask, "Who are they?" Say, "Yes, they are boys. Today will be the boys' 'special day.'" Read *Jafta*. Discuss the story. Ask, "Is Jafta a boy or a girl?"

Paint:

Provide the children with an outline of a boy (such as a gingerbread-man shape). Encourage them to decorate it to look like themselves or a boy they know (if child is a girl). They can paste O-shaped cereal or fabric scraps on the boy to make facial features or clothing.

Dramatic Play:

Encourage role-play in the housekeeping area of a royal family living in Africa. Provide musical instruments such as drums, shakers, sticks, and bells. Boys play the instruments on their "special day." Play African music in the background.

Creative:

Encourage children to work together to build an African hut. Tell the children that in Africa, the walls of huts are sometimes made from red clay and the roof of the hut is oftentimes

covered with palm branches. Provide grass, leaves, or straw from an old broom and tie at one end to layer the roof. Use clay to make round or square walls for the hut. Cut an opening for the door.

Finger Play:

"My Royal Family"

This is the chief;

(point to pointer finger)

This is the queen-mother;

(point to middle finger)

This is the princess;

(point to the ring finger)

And that isn't all:

Here comes the prince.

(point to the baby finger)

A very nice family

(raise four fingers)

Count them with me.

1, 2, 3, 4

(touch each finger as you count)

Story:

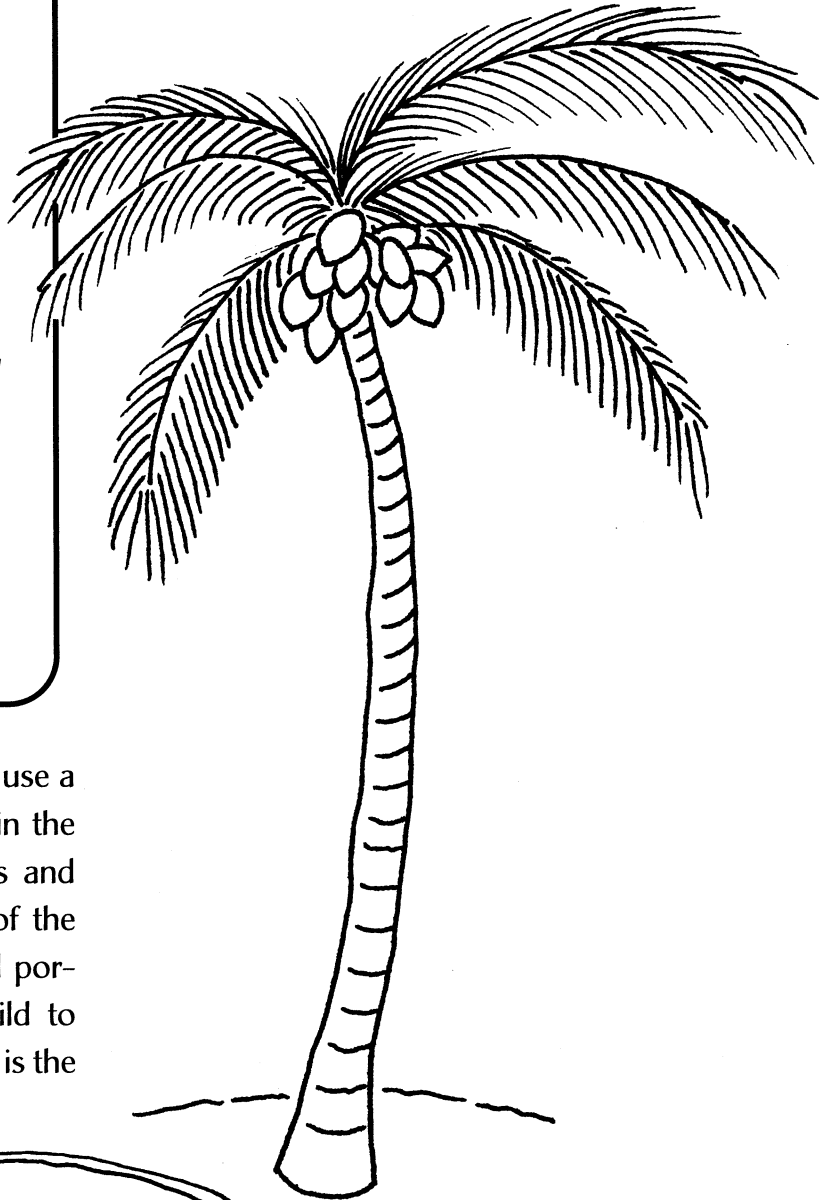
Whistle for Willie

Snack:

Coconuts

In Africa, many people enjoy coconut milk as an inexpensive and readily available, refreshing drink. Bottled soda or other soft drinks are oftentimes too expensive for daily consumption by the local people. They simply chop off one end of a coconut with a machete (large knife) and drink the liquid from within. The meat on the inside also is eaten, and the shell is stockpiled for grinding into chips for other uses.

(Note: Coconuts available in the United States generally comes from Hawaii and are different in texture from the African variety. However, the children will enjoy investigating this fruit and its delicious milk and meat.)



To prepare, cover a table with plastic and use a hammer to crack open the coconut. Drain the milk out of the coconut into small cups and share with children. Scrape the insides of the coconut with a spoon and provide small portions of the coconut meat for each child to taste. Have the girls be the servers, since it is the boys' special day.

