Madison Public Library’s

Storytime Starters

Brothers & Sisters

Books for Toddlers:

Baby Says by John Steptoe, © 1988. (GROWING, Steptoe)
Gemma & Gus by Olivier Dunrea, © 2015. (BOARD, Dunrea)
Mama Cat Has Three Kittens by Denise Fleming, © 1998. (FAVORITES, Fleming)
My Big Brother by Valorie Fisher, © 2002. (GROWING, Fisher)
You Can Do It Too! by Karen Baicker, © 2005. (GROWING, Baicker)

Books for Preschoolers:

Bunny Cakes by Rosemary Wells, © 1997. (CHARACTERS, Wells)
The Family Book by Todd Parr, © 2003. (GROWING, Parr)
The New Small Person by Lauren Child, © 2014. (FAVORITES/MITCHELL, Child)
Owl Babies by Martin Waddell, © 1992. (FAVORITES, Waddell)
Peter’s Chair by Ezra Jack Keats, © 1967. (FAVORITES, Keats)
Sheila Rae, the Brave by Kevin Henkes, © 1987. (FAVORITES, Henkes)
Watch Out! Big Bro’s Coming! By Jez Alborough, © 1997. (FAVORITES, Alborough)

School-Age Extension:

The Three Billy Goats Gruff by Janet Stevens, © 1987. (FOLK, Stevens)

Fingerplays & Songs:

Madison Public Library
www.madisonpubliclibrary.org/kids
rev. 12/2013 AR/YS
If You Have a Brother ...
(Tune: “Mary Had a Little Lamb”)
If you have a brother,
A brother, a brother,
If you have a brother,
Please stand up!
Repeat with different family members:
sister, mommy, daddy, cousin. Ask the kids who else we could include.
(From: http://www.abbythelibrarian.com/2015/04/preschool-storytime-family.html)

Some Families
Some families are large.
(Spread arms out wide)
Some families are small.
(Bring hands close together)
But I love my family
(Give yourself a hug)
Best of all!
(From: http://www.preschooleducation.com/sfamiliesong.shtml)

Three in a Family
Here is Daddy. (thumb)
Here is Mommy. (index)
Here I am for three, (pinky)
Together we’re a family,
As happy as can be! (clap)
(From: http://www.preschooleducation.com/sfamiliesong.shtml)

Jack and Jill
(Traditional)
Jack and Jill went up the hill
To fetch a pail of water;
Jack fell down and broke his crown.
And Jill came tumbling after.
Up Jack got, and home did trot
As fast as he could caper;
To old Dame Dob, who patched his nob
With vinegar and brown paper.

Thumbkin
Where is Thumbkin?
Where is Thumbkin?
Here I am. Here I am.
How are you this morning?
Very well, I thank you.
Run and play. Run and play.

Where is Pointer?
… Tall Man
… Ring Man
… Pinky
… the whole family
(From: http://www.preschoolrainbow.org/family-rhymes.htm)

A Family Fingerplay
This is a family
(hold up one hand, fingers spread)
Let’s count them and see,
How many there are,
And who they can be
(count 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
This is the mother
(touch pointer finger)
Who loves everyone
And this is the father
(touch big finger)

Who is lots of fun.
This is the sister
(touch ring finger)
She helps and she plays,
And this is the baby
(touch little finger)
He’s growing each day.
But who is this one?
(touch thumb)
He’s out there alone,
Why it’s Jackie, the dog,
And he’s chewing a bone.
(wiggle thumb)
(From:
http://www.preschoolrainbow.org/family-rhymes.htm)
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STAFF ONLY

Big Book: Over in the Meadow, En aquel prado

Flannel Boards: Five Little Babies, Five Monkeys Jumping on the Bed, Over in the Meadow

Prop Stories: Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed, Figures for Three Billy Goats Gruff

Movies: Frederick (DVD, 6 min.), Noisy Nora (VHS, 6 min.), Peter’s Chair (DVD, 6 min.)

App:

Stamps: Letters ‘F’ (for family), ‘B’ (for brother), ‘S’ (for sister)

Craft: Family Portraits
I have included a simple picture frame on paper. Children can draw pictures of their families. Drawing is great practice for writing! Encourage the kids to sign their artwork. Pretend writing is okay!

Play Literacy: Play Writing Element
Included in the kit, there is a letter template. Encourage the kids to write a letter to a family member, friend, or someone they love. Remind grown-ups that pretend writing
is okay!

Another idea I had (but I didn’t include any supplies for this) is to have the kids create a book about their families. They could draw pictures of and write about each of their family members.

**Early Learning Tip:** Tell family stories! Storytelling is a great way to bond with your child and build vocabulary!