

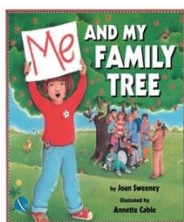
My Family Tree



Use this classic tune and original story to teach your child their family relations.

THINK ABOUT . . .

Teaching extended family relations to young children can be a confusing subject with complicated vocabulary. But through repetition and age-appropriate activities, you can help your child listen to and learn the vocabulary and concepts of their family connections. Remember to use acoustic highlighting to help your child pay attention to the differences in how words sound, such as grandma vs grandpa (emphasize 'ma' and 'pa'). You can also reinforce the concepts and vocabulary by singing to make it fun and to help them to remember. Music is an essential component of your child's listening journey and can be a powerful tool for learning.



MATERIALS NEEDED:

- This is My Family Tree lyrics (sung to the tune of Hokey Pokey)
- Tree and leaf pdf (to make your own family tree)
- Pictures of family members (optional)
- Book: *Me and My Family Tree* by Joan Sweeney (optional)

ACTIVITY

- 1- Talk to your child about the members of your family and, if possible, use pictures to support the conversation.
- 2- Introduce your child to the song 'This is My Family Tree', sung to the tune of Hokey Pokey (lyrics on pdf below).
- 3- Read through the book *Me and My Family Tree* by Joan Sweeney. You can talk about the family members listed in the book and relate the names to your child's own family.
- 4- As you read, you can also take the opportunity to expand your child's language and reinforce other vocabulary as appropriate. You might ask your child: "Tell me what you see." As your child tells you what they see, expand his/her language. For example, if your child says "Tree", you could say, "Oh yes a big brown tree with large branches!"
- 5- After you read the story, sing 'This is My Family Tree' to help reinforce concepts. As you sing, acoustically highlight the different family member names your child hears.
- 6- You can expand this activity by using the tree and leaf cutouts (below) to make your own family tree. You could write names on the leaves or add the pictures to the leaves to reinforce your child's ability to understand and remember while singing the song.

VOCABULARY:

- Family
- Brother
- Sister
- Mom
- Dad
- Parents
- Grandma
- Grandpa
- Grandparents
- Aunt
- Uncle
- Cousins
- Family Tree

HELPFUL TIPS

- You can make a larger family tree with brown paper on a door or wall, having room to add more pictures of extended family member.
- Follow your child's lead – you will want tasks to be hard enough that your child is learning but not so hard that it becomes frustrating or unenjoyable. Keep it fun and meaningful!

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THIS IS MY FAMILY TREE

My Family Tree

Sing to the tune of "The Hokey Pokey" (adapt names as needed – e.g., "I have a sister and a sister" rather than "brother and sister")

I have a family,
I have a family,
I have a family, and it all starts with me.
I have a family, and it all starts with me.
This is my family tree.

I have a mom and a dad,
I have a mom and a dad,
I have a mom and a dad, and they love me
I have a mom and a dad, and they love me
This is my family tree.

I have a brother and a sister,
I have a brother and a sister,
I have a brother and a sister, and they like me.
I have a brother and a sister, and they like me.
This is my family tree.

My mom has a mom
My mom has a mom
My mom has a mom, and she is my grandma
She is my grandma and is special to me.
This is my family tree.

My dad has a mom
My dad has a mom
My dad has a mom, and she's my grandma too
She is my grandma and is special to me.
This is my family tree.

My mom has a sister,
My dad has a sister,
They both have sisters, and they are my aunts.
They both have sisters, and they are my aunts.
This is my family tree.

My mom has a brother,
My dad has a brother,
They both have brothers, and they are my uncles.
They both have brothers, and they are my uncles.
This is my family tree.

My aunt has kids,
My uncle has kids,
They both have kids, and they are my cousins.
My cousins are fun and we play all day.
This is my family tree.

(add names for other adaptations)

My mom has a sister,
My mom has a sister,
My mom has a sister, and her name is Aunt _____
My mom has a sister, and her name is Aunt _____
This is my family tree.

I've got a family,
I've got a family,
I've got a family, and it all starts with me.
I've got a family, and it all starts with me.
This is my family tree.



