



Storytime Activity Guide

Homemade Love

by bell hooks, illustrated by Shane W. Evans

In this book, renowned writer and feminist theorist bell hooks describes something every child is concerned about: will my parents love me even when I am bad? Words and images come together to paint a picture of “Girlpie” and her parents, and to convey the idea that parents love their children all the time, even when children make mistakes.

Did you know?

Before learning to read, children need to understand what letters and words are and how we use them. This is called **Print Awareness**. Help your child develop Print Awareness as you go through *Homemade Love* by showing them the words that are in large print, and pointing out the letters that make up each word.

Talk about it!

- The parents in the book have many different names for their child, like Girlpie, Sweet, and Daddy’s Honey Bun Chocolate Dew Drop. Why do you think her parents have all these different names for her?
- How do you feel when things don’t turn out the way you expect?
- What are some of the things that make you feel better?

Play: These are a few of my favorite things!

- Ask your child to name five or six things they love (e.g., family, cookies, playing, car rides, hugs, etc.) Write down this list on a piece of paper.
- Make a similar list for yourself as well.
- Review the list with your child. As you go through the list, call the child’s attention to the letters of each word on the list. Depending on the age of your child, you can point out just the first letter of each word, or the first and last letter of each word.
- Talk about the things on the list. Why are they special or important?
- Compare your child’s list with your list. How are they similar? How are they different?

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Create: Word play all day!

Materials:

- Old magazine or newspaper, junk mail fliers etc.
- Paper (recycled brown paper bag works well here)
- Scissors
- Glue

Directions:

1. Go through the old magazine or newspaper with your child, and cut out 8-10 words.

For toddlers, choose shorter words in large size print; for preschoolers, choose longer words in a variety of print sizes.

Place the words on the piece of paper.
Glue and cut the words to make a set of “cards”.



2. Review the words with your child one at a time. Point out the letters in each word.

For example, you can say “This word is air. It starts with the letter A, and it ends with the letter R. There are three letters in it: A-I-R”.)



3. Lay out the cards on a surface.

Place some words right side up and some words upside down.

Point out the words that are upside down (or ask your child to point out the upside down words).

Turn them right side up.



4. Review the cards with your child.

Point out the first letter of each word.

Group together the words that start with the same first letter.

Now that you have the cards, you can use them at home or on-the-go to practice print awareness with your child.

