

WHAT MAKES MY DAD HAPPY by Tania Cox

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

- * Discuss with children things they do with their dad that make him happy. Show the children the book's front cover and have the children suggest what it might be about. After reading the book to the children, discuss things that made the dads happy in the book.
- * Discuss with children what they would like to write on a note to put in dad's pocket. Have the children write the note and take home to put in their dad's pocket.
- * Discuss with children things they love doing with their dad. Have the children draw a picture/s. Older children could perhaps write a couplet/s for their picture/s similar to couplets written in the story. Perhaps favourite picture/s/couplets could be included in a calendar as a gift for Father's Day.
- * Perhaps children could write and illustrate a story titled *What Makes My Dad Happy* based on their own dad.
- * Perhaps the class could organise a Father's Day afternoon at the park. Children could make posters to hang up around their house advertising to their family the afternoon which features competitions such as: who can spin around and around the longest, tower building competition, silliest dance competition, sack races, wheelbarrow races, three legged races. Perhaps kids can pretend to give their dad a shave with shaving cream and a popsicle stick. etc. Perhaps in the class each child could prepare a note for their Dad to tuck into his pocket on the day.
- * Perhaps dads could be invited to come to kindy/school to talk about their jobs. What do they do? Does their job take them far away? If so, how do dad and child communicate? etc. Perhaps children could write and/or draw their own dad at work.
- * Look at the illustrations together and discuss the mediums used by the illustrator in the story eg acrylics, collage, photos etc. Perhaps children could use similar mediums draw/paint/collage a portrait of their dad as a Father=s Day gift.
- * Perhaps children could write an acrostic poem either Father or Dad and include it as part of their Father's Day card to give to their dad.
- * Discuss and list the rhyming words in the story. List what other words rhyme. Perhaps make cards out of the rhyming words to enable children to play Memory with the cards or Snap! A variation for these games could be that instead of children having to select the same word as a match, perhaps they have to select the matching rhyming pair.
- * Perhaps after listing things that make their dad happy, children could write and/draw what makes their dad happiest of all.