

Mystery Bag: Activities with Extended Family Members

Instructions:

- 1) Ask: Who else is in your family? (Grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins)
- 2) Ask: What do you like to do with your grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins when you get together?
- 3) Put photos representing activities you do with extended family into a bag. (You can also use a combination of photos and objects.)
- 4) Children take turns choosing an item.
- 5) Involve children in an activity for each item.

Possible Activities:

- **Camping**

- a) Put a blanket over the classroom table.
- b) Invite children to crawl into the "tent."
- c) Give children a flashlight.
- d) Turn off the lights to simulate nighttime.
- e) Let children pretend to sleep in the tent.

- **Going on Picnics**

- a) Spread a tablecloth on the floor.
- b) Distribute paper plates, napkins, and mini-water bottles.
- c) Put food from a cooler onto each plate. (I used peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, cheese sticks, and apple slices.)
- d) Invite the children to the picnic.
- e) Tell a scripture story while children are eating.

Note: Baby wipes work well for cleaning sticky hands.



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- **Making Treats**

- a) Spread a plastic tablecloth on the floor (to protect the floor).
- b) Put an apron on each child (to protect their clothing—you can use an old, button-up shirt put on backwards).
- c) Let children help you make a treat. (Be sure to check for allergies.)

Possible options include celery with peanut butter in it, cut sliced cheese into shapes with cookie cutters, edible playdough, no-bake cookies, pudding, etc. More ideas at ABC Preschool Snack Ideas:

<http://www.food.com/bb/viewtopic.zsp?t=157979>

- **Playing Games**

- a) Choose a children's game (such as Duck, Duck, Goose; Mother May I; Red Light, Green Light; Red Rover, etc.)
- b) Let children play the game.

- **Playing Musical Instruments**

- a) Play a Primary song on a CD player.
- b) Show children how to hit a triangle (or other musical instrument).
- c) Let each child have a turn.
- d) Possible instruments might include drums, jingle bells, maracas, tambourines, etc.

- **Reading Stories or Watching Videos**

- a) Ask: Did you know that Jesus had aunts, uncles, and cousins too?
- b) Show Picture 1-18 of *John the Baptist Baptizing Jesus*
- c) Say: This is a picture of Jesus getting baptized by his cousin, John the Baptist.
- d) Tell the story of Mary & Elisabeth from [Luke 1:36–44, 56](#)
OR show the video: [John the Baptist is Born](#)