Play is the most powerful way young children learn.

- Every time you play, sing or read with young children they are learning about language.
- The following activities have been designed for early childhood professionals to use as a starting point for developing children's early literacy skills through play.
- Please feel free to adapt them for the home and with children of different ages.
- Don't forget to record your own ideas, activities that worked really well, relevant songs and rhymes in the Notes section opposite.
- Visit our website www.thelittlebigbookclub.com for more fun printable activities based on this book.

Engaging with Language and Literacy

The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go. Dr Seuss

Before Reading the Story:

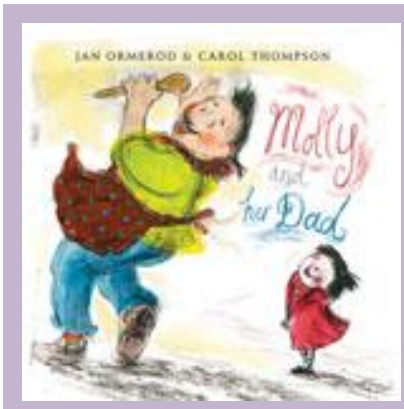
- Read the back blurb to the children.
  - You can use the questions on the back to start a discussion.
  - What will Molly's dad be like?
  - Will he look like her?
  - What will she call him?

After Reading the Story:

- Have a group discussion about work and the different roles people have in families.
- Pose questions such as what jobs do your mum or dad do?
  - Who cooks the dinner in your house?
  - Who does the shopping?
  - Who drops the children to childcare or school?
  - What jobs do the children do at home?

Parenting Easy Guides (PEGS) provide some great information on topics such as parent separation and an excellent fact sheet to use with children when talking about families see the link below:

http://www.cyh.com/HealthTopics/HealthTopicDetailsKids.aspx?p=335&np=282&id=1524



Molly and Her Dad
Jan Ormerod & Carol Thompson

Notes

Make A Book:

- The children can make their own version of *Molly And Her Dad.*
- They could draw pictures of their Dad or use photos to illustrate the story. You could create a template with key phrases such as My Dad's name is…
- My Dad's favourite food is… My Dad is good at…
- You could also replace My Dad with My Mum, My Uncle etc...

Nicknames:

- Talk about nicknames with the children, do they have nicknames?
- Experiment with rhyming and the children's names, or try some alliteration like Awesome Annie or Fantastic Fred!

Being Creative Through Play

Pizzas:

- Make pretend pizzas like Molly and her Dad with play dough.
- Make a collage pizza using paper plates and coloured paper.

Professions:

- Magazines are a great source of pictures for depicting adults undertaking a variety of jobs.
- The children may like to make a collage from magazines.
- How many different professions can they find?

Paints:

- In the story Molly and her Dad buy some face paints – the children may like to use face paints just like Molly to create a moustache or other facial features.
- They could also use the dress ups from the home corner to complete their new disguise.

Pictures:

- Look closely at the illustrations with children.
- How do you think Carol Thompson might have created the pictures?
- Provide the children with charcoal and chalk. What kind of pictures can they create?

More Books About Families:

When Dad Did the Washing by David Armitage

My Daddy and Me by Rachel Flynn

Piglet and Papa & *Piglet and Mama* by Margaret Wild & Stephen Michael King

Baby Birds Blankie byMargaret Wild & Gwyn Perkins

The Family Book by Todd Parr

Useful Websites and Links:

For Printable Activities:

www.thelittlebigbookclub.com

Exploring Our World

Post Office Visit

- If possible organize an excursion to the local post office.
- Prior to the visit ask the children what they would like to know about mail or mail delivery?
- An adult can scribe the children's questions.
- Visit for more information www.auspost.com.au/education
- Alternatively you could organize a visit from a postal delivery officer.
  You can contact http://auspost.com.au/education/teacher-more-about-australia-post.html#ancOrganiseaTour
- Walk to the local post box to post some letters. Children will enjoy choosing someone special to whom they can write a letter.

Plan A Party

- You may like to have a party and invite the children's friends and families. The children can make the invitations and then post them to their families or simply take them home.
- Think about including the children in the planning of the party
- What food will they have at the party?
- What time will the party be?
- Who will they invite?
- Will there be games or dancing at the party?

Enjoying Dramatic and Musical Play

Role-play not only stimulates children's imagination but also helps with social development.

Dramatic Play:

- When setting up a home corner include dress ups from a variety of professions such as aprons, work boots and suit jackets.
- Role reversal is fun for young children, particularly when it involves becoming Mum or Dad for a while.

Sing silly songs just like Molly's dad:

- Play School and Peter Coombe are a great source of silly songs.

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- The children can make musical instruments to use when singing the silly songs. Small juice bottles filled with rice or beans make great shakers.
- Have a dance party like Molly and her Dad

Families

My family's a mixture
Of people, young and old.
Some of us are shy
And some of us are bold.
Some of us are grown-up
And some of us are small.
One thing we have in common
Each one cares for all.
Of course, we sometimes fight
And sometimes scream and yelp.
But we all join together
When one of us needs help.

Mr. Clicketty Cane

By Peter Combe

CHORUS
When Mr. Clicketty Cane plays his silly game
All the kids in the street they like to do the same

Wash your face in orange juice (echo)
Clean your teeth with bubblegum (echo)
Fix the fence with sticky tape (echo)
Brush your hair with a tooth brush (echo)
Fry an egg on a slippery dip (echo)
Belly flop in a pizza (echo)

CHORUS
All the kids in the street they like to do the same
All the kids in the street they like to do the same
Silly game!

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