

# VERMONT EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS

## MODULE 3: FAMILY ACTIVITIES

### ACTIVITY 1: MAKE AT HOME FAMILIES

**AGE:** Younger and Older Toddlers

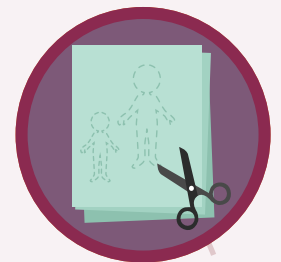
**WHAT YOU'LL NEED:**

- Tissues
- Markers
- Tape
- Toilet paper rolls (optional)
- Cardboard boxes or Tupperware containers

**PURPOSE**

As a toddler, your child is just learning to pretend play and usually acts out things that they see you do around the house, like cook, clean or talk on the phone. This activity gives you a no-cost way to create little people for you and your child to pretend with together.

This activity relates to the Expressive Language element in the **Language Development** domain of the VELs and the Theatre (Dramatic Play) element in the **Creative Arts and Expression** domain of the VELs.



**HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO!**

1. To make each doll, start by wadding up the middle of a tissue into a ball about the size of the tip of your thumb. This will make the doll's head. Twist the rest of the tissue to make the doll's body. Cover the body in tape to keep it in shape.
  - » Or, you can make the whole tissue into a ball for the head, then put the head into a toilet paper roll and tape it in. The cardboard will be the doll's body. You may cut the rolls into different lengths so each doll is a different size.
2. Use the markers to draw faces and other features onto the dolls.
3. Make as many as you wish and give them to your child. You may also provide cardboard boxes or Tupperware containers for houses, rooms or cars.



4. Sit down on the floor and ask your child what the family should do together. Let your child be in charge of the play and follow their lead. Show them how to pretend a box is a car by making car noises as they drive around. Ask your child questions to help them continue the pretend play, for example, “What should we use to be the store for the family?”



If your child needs some help, you can make suggestions based on the activities you and your family do. For example, the pretend family can go to the grocery store, the park, a religious service, to grandpa’s house, or to child care. Remember your toddler likes to act out what they know, so feel free to add to this list based on what your family likes to do together!

### SWITCH IT UP!

Here are some different ways that you and your child can do this activity throughout your day together.

- If English is not your home language, you may choose to have your child do this activity in English, or in your home language, or both!
- Other materials may be used instead of tissues. Wash cloths or dishtowels may also be used, using a rubber band to create the head. You may choose to tape paper eyes and mouths on these instead of using markers.
- Include any stuffed animals or dolls your child has with the family you create. Give them names and ask your child to tell you how they fit into the story they are creating.



### BRIDGING ACROSS DOMAINS

These are ways to work on other areas of development (or bridge across domains) during the same activity.

- **Language:** Ask your child to tell you a story about the family. Ask your child what, who, how and why questions about the story as they are telling it. Asking, “What would happen if...” questions will get your child thinking about what will happen in their story.
- **Dance and Music:** Put your favorite songs on, or turn on the radio, and have your family dance and sing together!

### CHECK IT OUT!

Visit your local library and check out these books to read with your child.

- *A Visitor for Bear* – Bonny Becker
- *Clap Hands* – Helen Oxenbury
- *Baby Dance* – Ann Taylor



*Activity adapted from:*

- McKinnon, E. (1996). *Teaching House: Early Learning All Around the House*. Warren Publishing House, Torrance, CA.