

busy siblings corner

BY HEATHER KEMPSKIE AND LISA HANSON

National Siblings Day is April 10

Did you know positive early experiences between siblings can lead to harmony in future years? Here are some fun ways for your kids to enjoy some time together, regardless of their ages. Plus, each activity is designed for minimal set up making it a joy for the entire family. Let the fun times between your kids start now!

LET ME SEE YOUR FUNNY FACE

Let your children see all the silly and interesting things they can do with their faces!

Gather your children around a large mirror to make funny faces and admire their similar and unique features. Then your older children can create self-portraits by gluing construction paper features onto paper plates.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- * Large mirror
- * Child-safe scissors
- * Colored construction paper
- * Glue stick
- * Paper plates
- * Stapler

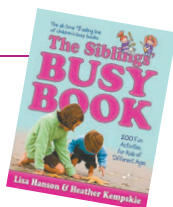
Baby Your baby will enjoy studying her own face in the mirror. Touch her nose and eyes as she gazes at herself. This action will help her learn that the reflection in the mirror is hers. To strengthen her neck muscles, place her on her tummy in front of the mirror-she'll work hard to get a good look at herself. While her siblings make funny faces in the mirror, she may even try to mimic them. For more fun, flip through magazines that have lots of close-up photos of faces for her to admire and study.

Toddler Have your toddler identify the different features of his face, including the colors of his eyes and hair. Cut out a set of eyes, a nose, a mouth, and hair for him from construction paper. Help him glue them onto a paper plate to create his self-portrait.

Preschooler Your preschooler can cut out a set of eyes, a nose, a mouth, and hair from construction paper for her self-portrait. She may also want to include other facial details like her eyebrows, eyelashes, and ears. Your preschooler understands different feelings, too. She may want to create a happy, silly, or tired face. While she works on the project, ask her to identify how she looks similar to or different from her siblings.

School-Age Child Your school-age child can also use photos from magazines to create a more intricate or silly self-portrait. He can cut out eyes, a nose, and a mouth from images in the magazine. Encourage him to create portraits of his siblings, too, and then staple the paper plates together side by side for a homemade family portrait.

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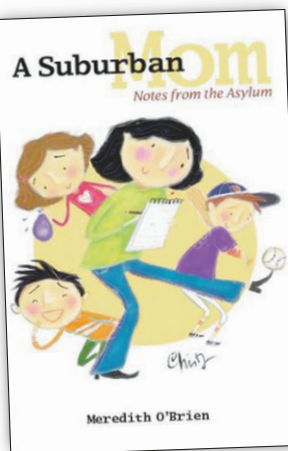
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