



**BCDI**

Black Child  
Development Institute  
ATLANTA

# FAMILY REUNION

FEBRUARY 2025



## ACTIVITY GUIDE

**FOR PARENTS & CHILDREN**

*Inspired by "Family Reunion"  
by Chad and Dad Richardson For Children Ages 5-10*

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## Family Reunion Activity Guide

*Welcome to the Family Reunion Activity Guide! Family reunions are magical moments where stories, laughter, and traditions create lasting memories. Through Chad and Dad Richardson's heartwarming book "Family Reunion," children explore the journey of a young boy who discovers the joy and importance of family gatherings. This guide offers engaging, interactive activities that help children ages 5-10 connect with the themes of family bonds, overcoming hesitation about new experiences, and celebrating cultural traditions.*

*Every activity in this guide has been carefully designed to spark curiosity, encourage participation, and deepen children's appreciation for family connections. Whether used in a classroom setting or at home, these activities create opportunities for meaningful discussions about family, heritage, and the special moments we share with loved ones.*

- 1) Pre-Reading Activities**
- 2) During Reading Activities**
- 3) Post-Reading Activities (1/2)**
- 4) Post-Reading Activities (2/2)**
- 5) Extension Activities**
- 6) Reflection Activities** *(assessment ideas/tips)*

# Pre-Reading Activities

## My Family Tree Art Project

- **Age Range:** 5-10
- **Materials Needed:** Large paper, markers/crayons, family photos (*optional*)
- **Description:** Have children draw their family tree, decorating it with-
  - Family members' names
  - Special symbols that represent what makes each person unique
  - Favorite memories with different family members

## Feelings Discussion

- **Age Range:** 5-7
- **Materials Needed:** None
- **Description:** Talk about times when children felt nervous about a new experience but ended up enjoying it, connecting to the main character's journey.

# During Reading Activities

## Reunion Scavenger Hunt Checklist

- **Age Range:** 7-10
- **Materials Needed:** Printed checklists, pencils
- **Description:** As you read the book, have children create a list of-
  - Different activities happening at the reunion
  - Types of food mentioned
  - Various family members and their relationships
  - Signs of joy and celebration they spot in the illustrations

## Emotion Detective

- **Age Range:** 5-7
- **Materials Needed:** Small mirrors (optional), space to move
- **Description:** Turn children into emotion detectives who investigate feelings through movement and expression-
  - Create a "feelings walk" where children move around the room showing different emotions from the story (excited, nervous, happy, surprised)
  - Play "freeze dance," where children freeze in poses that show how the main character felt at different parts of the story
  - Use mirrors (if available) to practice making faces that match different emotions mentioned in the book
  - Play "emotion charades." Children 'act out' feelings for others to guess
  - Create simple hand signals or gestures as a group to represent different emotions from the story
  - Use voice tone and volume to express how the main character might have spoken at different moments

# Post-Reading Activities 1/2

## Plan Your Dream Family Reunion

- **Age Range:** 8-10
- **Materials Needed:** Paper, art supplies
- **Description:** Have children design their ideal family gathering by-
  - Creating a menu of favorite family dishes
  - Planning fun activities for all ages
  - Drawing a map of where everything would take place
  - Making a schedule of events

## Family Recipe Collection

- **Age Range:** 7-10
- **Materials Needed:** Recipe cards, writing materials
- **Description:** Have children-
  - Interview family members about their favorite recipes
  - Write or draw the ingredients
  - Record special memories associated with each dish
  - Create a mini family cookbook

# Post-Reading Activities 2/2

## Family Stories Recording Station

- **Age Range:** 5-10
- **Materials Needed:** Recording device (optional), paper, art supplies
- **Description:** Encourage children to-
  - Interview older family members about their favorite family stories
  - Draw pictures or take pictures to illustrate the stories
  - Create a family storybook with collected tales

## Cultural Celebration Corner

- **Age Range:** 6-10
- **Materials Needed:** Various craft supplies
- **Description:** Help children explore and celebrate their family's cultural traditions through-
  - Creating family tradition collages
  - Learning traditional songs or games
  - Making cultural craft projects
  - Drawing/providing pictures of special celebration clothes or items

# Extension Activities

## Family News Reporter

- **Age Range:** 8-10
- **Materials Needed:** Paper, pencils, camera (optional)
- **Description:** Encourage children to-
  - Interview older family members about their favorite family stories
  - Writing short articles about family news
  - Including family jokes and fun facts
  - Adding photos or drawings

## Memory Time Capsule

- **Age Range:** 5-10
- **Materials Needed:** Box or container, various materials for memories
- **Description:** Create a family reunion time capsule containing-
  - Photos
  - Written memories
  - Small mementos
  - Messages to future family members



# Reflection Activities

## Gratitude Journal

- **Age Range:** 7-10
- **Materials Needed:** Notebook, writing materials
- **Description:** Have children write or draw-
  - Three things they love about their family
  - Special moments they want to remember
  - Things they learned about their family history
  - New family members they met

## Assessment Ideas for Educators

- Have students create a presentation about their family traditions
- Write a story about their own family gathering
- Create a compare/contrast chart between the book's family reunion and their own experiences
- Design a family reunion invitation incorporating elements from the story

## Tips for Implementation

- Adapt activities based on age and ability level
- Be sensitive to different family structures and situations
- Encourage creativity and personal expression
- Make modifications as needed for virtual or distance learning

*\*Remember to celebrate each child's unique family story and encourage sharing in a respectful, inclusive way!*



# Conclusion

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Family stories shape who we are and help us understand where we come from. Through these activities, children have explored the rich tapestry of family life celebrated in "Family Reunion." They've discovered that, just like the book's main character, sometimes the most wonderful experiences come from embracing family gatherings with an open heart.

As children participate in these activities, they'll build a deeper understanding of:

- The value of family traditions and gatherings
- The joy of connecting with relatives across generations
- The importance of keeping family stories alive
- The excitement of trying new experiences
- The beauty of cultural celebrations

Remember, each family's story is unique and special. These activities can be adapted to honor and celebrate every family's particular traditions, customs, and ways of coming together. Through play, movement, storytelling, and shared experiences, children will develop a lasting appreciation for the precious gift of family connections.

[Click here for the survey!](#)

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## TAKE ACTION!

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STORY**



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