LENS Project
Our Family Puzzles

Ages All Ages!

LENS Skill Sense of Self and Negotiation

Why? Using visual art to create a representation of our family unit helps us understand our family better and develop deeper relationships with one another.

Materials Get creative with the supplies you already have at home!

- Cardstock, foam board/foam core, cardboard, cereal/food boxes
- Coloring supplies: crayons, colored pencils, markers, sharpies, pencils, pens
- Scissors (or exacto knife depending on material)
- Blank paper 8.5x11
- Blank paper 11x17 (Optional)
- Post-it notes or slips of paper

Summary

This LENS activity is designed to encourage the whole family to work together and collaborate. You will all be able to explore how you relate to each other, reflect on your strengths, emotions and how you communicate. Your family will collaborate to create two puzzles highlighting memorable family events.

Warm-up

1.) Individual Scribble
Each family member will choose a crayon and take a blank piece of paper. Set a timer for 30 seconds, during which time, everyone scribbles without stopping.

- This is your chance to warm-up your creative muscles. You don’t have to be a visual artist to participate!
- Scribbling means you aren’t trying to draw anything on purpose, just don’t lift your crayon and keep it moving all around your paper.

OPTIONAL: Consider closing your eyes while scribbling or using your non-dominant hand.

2.) Joint Scribble
Now take a new piece of paper, just one for the whole family. If you have a larger piece of paper you can use it now. During this round everyone will be scribbling on the same page. Each family member can keep their crayon or choose a new color. Set a timer for another 30 seconds (or 45 seconds if you want more of a challenge).

- Remember, don’t lift your crayon and don’t try to draw anything on purpose.
- Decide as a family if your lines can cross.
- How does it feel to share the paper?

Please contact education@tacomaartslive.org with any questions or to request permission to copy this lesson.
Directions

1.) Brainstorm
Each family member will take a few post-it notes (or slips of paper) and a writing utensil. Everyone will brainstorm significant or memorable family events, writing one event per post-it note.
- Consider setting a timer, maybe between three-five minutes.
- Set a goal for your family (e.g. 3 events/memories per person).
- Allow younger family members to draw a quick picture to communicate their events.

2.) Lay Out Your Timeline
Once everyone is finished brainstorming, work together to lay out all of your family events in the order they occurred.
- Choose a place for your “timeline” where it can remain intact as you continue with the activity (e.g. stick it to the wall, use a different table).
- Did anyone choose the same event?
- Share why you chose certain memories.

Puzzle 1
3.) Create your Puzzle
Grab your cardstock (or similar material) and Negotiate as a family to determine the shape(s) of your puzzle pieces. Trace the outline of the puzzle pieces onto your cardstock, and once everyone is in agreement, cut them out. When you put the pieces back together, it should make a full sheet of cardstock or cardboard.
- Make sure you have at least one puzzle piece per family member.
- If you’re using cardboard or a cereal box, consider gluing down white paper on top of the cardboard, so your family has a blank surface on which to create.

4.) Decorate your Puzzle Piece
Choose your puzzle piece (or pieces) and decorate it to reflect a memorable event from your family’s timeline.
- What images can you create to reflect that memory?
- Consider drawing a “scene” from your family event.
- It’s ok if more than one person chooses the same event. You have different perspectives of the memory and will have different ways of recreating it on your puzzle piece.

Be sure to Negotiate with your family to determine how much time to take for each step
- Are you someone that works quickly? How can you support those who need more time?
- Are you someone who likes to take your time? Consider how your family might be feeling as they wait.

Please contact education@tacomaartslive.org with any questions or to request permission to copy this lesson.
Puzzle 2

5.) Create and Decorate a Family Puzzle
You will repeat Step 3 with a new piece of cardstock to create another puzzle with new puzzle pieces. This time your family will collaborate to create one collective image based on a family memory (think traditional puzzle). Plan a design together and determine how to keep everyone involved. Decorate each of the puzzle pieces, keeping in mind the goal of working towards your family’s collective image.
• Consider outlining the design first and then cutting out the puzzle pieces so each family member can fill in a part of the design. Maybe you take turns decorate the same piece.
• How else can you keep everyone active in completing the puzzle?
• What are each individual family member’s strengths? How can you utilize those strengths throughout this process?

6.) Reflect & Celebrate
Once your family has completed your puzzles you’ll want to consider where to display them! Be sure to also take some time to reflect together on the following questions. (You could discuss as a family or journal individual reflections.)
• What is your favorite part of your own puzzle piece?
• What do you enjoy about the puzzle pieces of your family members? What do you enjoy about your collective puzzles?
• How did each family member contribute to the full puzzles?
• Were there any challenges when creating your puzzles? How did your family work through them?
• How did you reflect your Sense of Self during this activity?
• What was a moment your family had to Negotiate to complete your puzzles? How successful was that process?
• How did you develop stronger connections to one another during this activity?

Fun Additions!
• Embellish your puzzles with stickers, glitter, fabric scraps, yarn or other items to give your puzzle a 3D effect.
• Create a puzzle with extended family and/or friends. Send them a template of a puzzle piece (or the puzzle piece itself) and ask them to decorate it with their own memory for the family puzzle.