A thematic unit on families is a great way to begin the year with a new class of preschool children. A family unit supports children in countless ways, including easing their transitions, helping them learn about the other boys and girls in the class, and strengthening their self-awareness. Teachers can draw on the following books to explore the rich diversity of families with preschoolers.

When the home Rosa shares with her mother and grandmother is destroyed by fire, the family saves up their spare change to buy a new chair.

Tim’s father lives in a different town, but when he comes to visit Tim on the train, father and son spend a special day together.

Silo and Roy, two male chinstrap penguins, fall in love and raise baby Tango together.

Big brother Alfie lovingly discusses the different things he and his younger sister do together.

New illustrations accompany the original 1973 text, which explores and celebrates multi-racial families.

Juno figures out a creative way to communicate with his Korean grandmother who lives far away in Seoul.

Corey’s dad makes the evening routine fun by cooking great spaghetti, dressing up as Bathman, and pretending to be a barking dog.
A mother shares thoughts and memories from her adopted Chinese daughter’s previous birthdays.

Nursing, rocking, giggling, and growing—this book celebrates babies and all that they do.

This colorful, lively story celebrates many different types of families, including stepfamilies, families with two moms or two dads, and single-parent families.

A little girl whose parents are divorced runs into trouble when her dog, Fred, starts misbehaving.

It’s time for lunch and the table is set, but Emily Greene is hiding. Will her father find her?

In this now classic story, Heather, a preschooler with two moms, discovers that many of her friends have very different sorts of families.

Jamaica is hurt when her older brother doesn’t want her to tag along with him and his friends. But when she begins playing with a younger child, she learns an important lesson.

This collection of poems honoring African American fathers won the 1998 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award.
Full of photographs, this simple book celebrates many different kinds of grandparents.

A young boy and his Iranian grandfather are brought together by a magic bottle.

A little girl describes all the things she loves to do with her hippie grandmother—from selling veggies at the farmer’s market to picketing city hall.

An Eskimo boy learns that there is room for everyone on his mother’s lap, even his new baby sister.

In this bilingual book (English and Spanish), Quinito and his family introduce readers to the world of opposites.

Young Children articles
