

Family Writing Night Activities with Artifacts

Talking about artifacts

Topics to develop conversation among the group:

- Which three objects would you save from your home if there were a fire? Why? Are these objects different from what other members of your family would choose?
- Where do you keep the objects you value the most? At home? In a certain room? On display or locked away?
- Do your children have favorite toys / possessions? (Or did they when they were younger)? What were they, and why did they become so favored?
- What is on your mantelpiece at home? Why?
- Working in family groups, and using templates of the bedroom, mantelpiece and house, you can ask learners to draw special objects from their home in the correct places, and add comments about why they like these objects.

Sharing Family Memories—

Aim of the theme:

The aim of this theme is for adults and children to share their memories of the past, find out about the lives of older relatives, and to compare life then and now.

Objectives of the theme:

Learners will:

- Talk to family members (including each other) to find out what memories they have of the past
- Develop communication and interviewing skills in order to be able to gather information about the past
- Compare the lives of people today and in the past, and give examples of things that have changed and have stayed the same
- Identify important stories and memories associated with their family, and celebrate these stories

Begin by talking to the group about how life has changed in our lifetime. Can the group suggest things that are different now compared to twenty years ago? Are the changes good or bad? This theme is all about talking to older relatives to find out about life in the past and how things have changes.

Working in family groups, encourage families to ask each other some of the following questions:

- Where do / did you go to school? What was it like?
- What was / are your favorite games to play?
- Who were / are your best friends as a child?
- What were / are your favorite toys? Can you describe them?
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Then encourage the adults to write and share about one of the following:

- A funny story they remember from growing up
- Their memories of school
- A favorite game they played as a child
- What they used to wear as a child / teenager
- Things they used to do in their spare time as a child / teenager

Children can write about what they remember from their childhoods or what they imagine their parents' childhoods to have been like.

Ask for sharing with the whole group –What differences and similarities have you noticed about life now and in the past?

