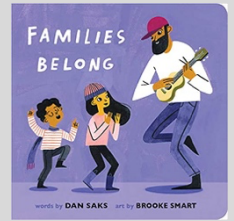# Families Belong

by Dan Saks

Reading with your child is an excellent way to expose your child to words, topics, and ideas that are more complex than what they would see in books they can read on their own.

Conversations will help increase your child's oral language skills and build their vocabulary. C.A.R. is a conversation starter that you can use with your child any time.

Below is an example of how to use C.A.R. with the book, *FAMILIES BELONG.*

Families relax
On blankets in the grass
Listening to the wind
Not saying anything

C.A.R.		Example
C	**Comment and Wait** (count to 5) *Make a comment about what you see on the page.*	*Adult:* They look like they are very relaxed. *Child:* I think they are tired from playing at the park.
A	**Ask questions and Wait** (count to 5) *Ask questions that do not have a "yes/ no" or one-word answer to them.*	*Adult:* Do you remember a time our family has spent time together relaxing? *Child:* We cuddle up and read books together!
R	**Respond** by adding a little more to the child's response.	*Adult:* We do! That is relaxing for us. Every family is different, but that is what makes families so special.

Activities

» Portrait Picture: Ask your child to illustrate a picture of someone in their family. Have a conversation about why they love this person and what makes them special.

» Words of Affirmation: Help your child create a sense of belonging by modeling the use of positive statements about yourself in front of your child. Say, "I like my _____." Then ask your child, "Can you tell me something that you like about yourself?"