

Family and Community Story Sharing

Overview:

In this activity, families reflect on a story material to inspire their own story sharing with one another.

Objectives:

1. Engage families in an activity where they begin to form shared story ideas with other families and educators
2. Uplift ancestral knowledges rooted in family and community stories

Materials:

- [Anansi Goes to Lunch](#) video
- Projector and sound system
- Laptop
- Chart paper
- Markers

Agenda:

Focus	Activity
WATCHING <i>8-10 minutes</i>	Ask the group if they are familiar with Anansi and then introduce the popular trickster character originating in West African folktales. Watch Anansi Goes to Lunch
REFLECTING <i>15 minutes</i>	In small groups, debrief the short video with the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What did you learn from this story? ● Does this connect to a story, folktale, or proverb you tell in your family or community?
SHARING <i>25 minutes</i>	Again, in small groups, invite participants to share a family or community story that relates to one of the topic ideas below: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A story about something they are passionate about (e.g., Anansi loves all kinds of food) 2) A story that explains how something came to be (e.g., how spider got a small waist) 3) A story about the character of a different animal (e.g., Anansi meets animals with different traits throughout the story) 4) A story about when you have learned a life lesson (e.g., Anansi learns something from saying yes to many lunch invitations)
CONNECTING <i>10-12 minutes</i>	Write notes or draw key ideas that connect the different stories shared in the small group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ask: What are the shared themes across your stories? Invite families to share the notes and images with the full group.

EARLY LITERACY COLLABORATIVE – Sample Activity

Facilitation Tips:

- ★ *Anansi Goes to Lunch* is an example of a literacy material rooted in African knowledge systems. Another story could be used in place of Anansi that encourages families to share wisdom rooted in their own cultural stories.
- ★ If the group is small, the story reflecting and sharing can be done altogether.
- ★ Encourage educators and other staff to share their family and community stories as well! Aim to cultivate a space where educators can show up as their full selves, and pull from their multiple identities (e.g., their cultural identity, or their identity as a parent, community member, etc.).