



Father's Day activities

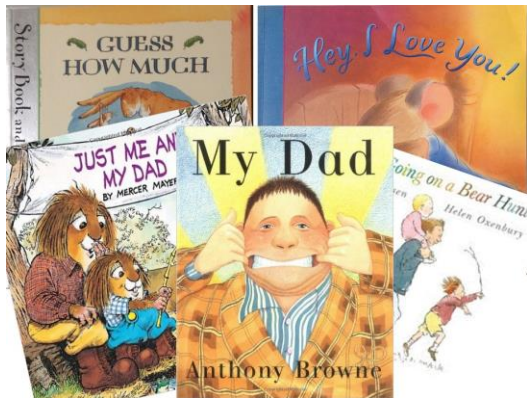
These suggestions for Father's Day are low on cost but packed with learning opportunities to incorporate into your class literacy and art programs.

These activities

- help develop children's creativity and teach them skills that they can apply in future gift-giving situations.
- show children that not all gifts need come from a store, and allow children from even the poorest families to give their dads a special Father's Day gift.
- show how thoughtfulness and imagination can combine to make a unique gift that will be treasured.

A gift from the heart lasts longer than many store-bought gifts.

1. Read picture books featuring fathers



A few of my favourites are:

Guess How Much I Love You by Sam McBratney, illustrated by Anita Jeram

My Dad by Anthony Browne

We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen, illustrated by Helen Oxenbury

Just Me and My Dad by Mercer Mayer

Hey, I Love You by Ian Whybrow, illustrated by Rosie Reeve

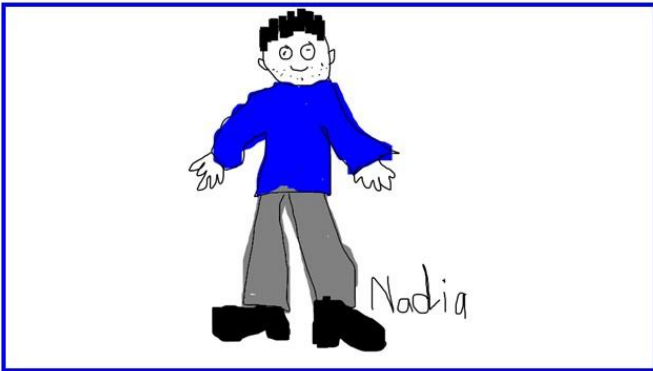
Of course, there are many others too. What is your favourite?

2. **Discuss what a father is and write a collaborative verse;** for example:

Write the phrase, “*A father is someone who*” on the board and ask children to complete the statement. Write their suggestions. Collect as many ideas as you can. Children will share a variety of special, mundane, humorous, complimentary, and perhaps not so complimentary, statements about their Dads.

Compile the suggestions into a verse. Print and distribute the verse for children to illustrate with pictures of their dads (ensure they sign their illustrations in the bottom right-hand corner).

For example:



What is a father?

A father is someone who loves you.
A father is someone who tickles you.
A father is someone who plays games with you.
A father is someone who drives you to school.
A father is someone who takes you to the park.
A father is someone who helps you with your homework.
A father is someone who drinks beer at night.
A father is someone who shouts at the TV when he's watching football.
A father is someone who likes driving fast.
A father is someone who makes your dinner.
A father is someone who reads you stories.
A father is someone who gives you bear hugs.
A father is someone who loves you.

I love my dad and he loves me.

When laminated, rolled into a scroll, or colourfully framed, these make a lovely Father's Day gift.

3. Write individual books about “My Dad”

The collaborative verse is a great way to get children thinking about all the special things their dads do for them. It is only a small step from here for children to make their own individual books composed of statements about their fathers. This time children write a series of statements beginning with “My Dad”. They may write things such as:

My Dad tucks me into bed at night.

My Dad reads me stories.

My Dad makes me feel better when I am sick.

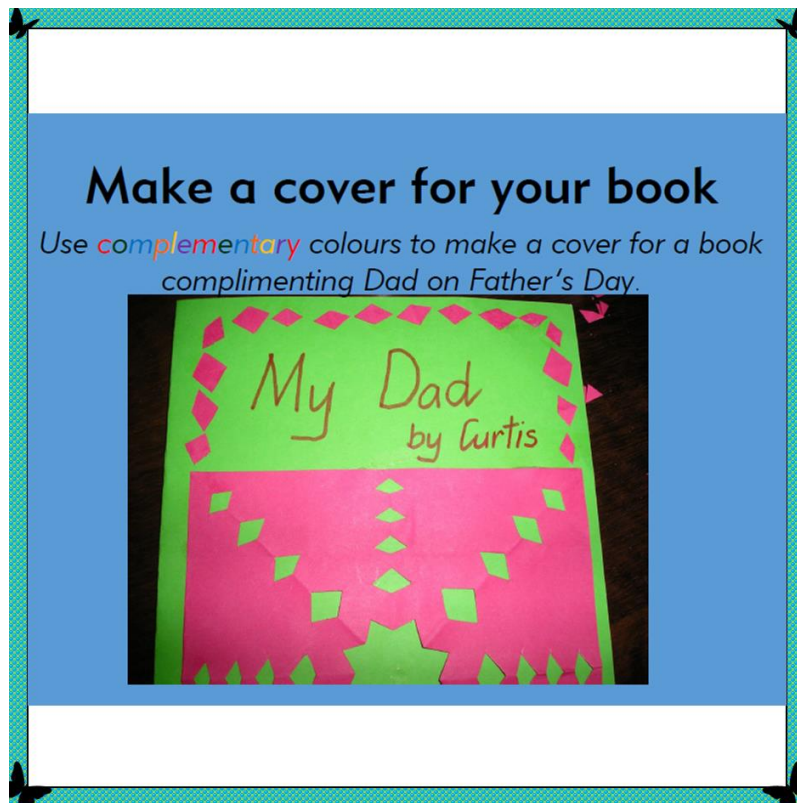
My Dad goes to work

My Dad likes to watch football on TV.

My Dad watches me play soccer.

My Dad takes me fishing in his boat.

If children write their statements into their writing books first, they can be edited and proofread before publishing in a book. With each statement written on its own page and illustrated, these books make a lovely gift. Refer to the resource [How to make a book cover](#) for step by step instructions for making a cover for a book using complementary colours, as well as other writing suggestions. The instructions for making a book cover can be displayed on the white board for children to read and follow.



4. Write exaggerated stories about “My Dad”

Who doesn't like to brag about their Dad? Children may like to make up exaggerated stories about their Dads. Brainstorm for ideas; for example:

- My Dad can jump higher than the moon.
- My Dad can run faster than a train.
- My Dad can lift a whole house on one hand.
- My Dad can eat one hundred burgers in one go.

Or make it funny:

- My Dad can run faster than the fastest snail.
- My Dad can jump over a flower in one leap.
- My Dad can touch his toes, when he's sitting down.
- My Dad can snore louder than a volcano exploding.

5. Write “I love” poems

Discuss and list things children love to do with their Dads. Children write their own list poem of things they like to do with their Dads; for example:

- I love cooking with my Dad.
- I love it when my Dad reads me stories.
- I love watching television with my Dad.
- I love playing games with my Dad.

Refer to the resource [Write your own “I love” poem](#) for other ideas and a printable card template.

The image is a collage of educational resources for writing "I love" poems. It features several components:

- Sample Poem:** "I love the mountains (a traditional camping song)" with lines: "I love the mountain", "I love the rolling hills", "I love the flowers", "I love the daffodils", "I love the fireside".
- List Poem Template:** A form with "I love" followed by blank lines and "By _____".
- Word Cloud:** A heart-shaped word cloud where the word "love" is repeated in various colors and sizes.
- Teaching Ideas:** A blue starburst graphic with the text: "Write your own 'I love' poems by innovating on 'I love the mountains'".
- Free Teaching Ideas:** A diagonal banner with the text "Free teaching ideas".
- Additional Resources:** A box containing a red heart icon and text: "Write your own 'I love' poems. Children love poems, especially poems with a simple structure. Poems with a simple, repetitive structure are easy to learn and make poems of their own. The traditional camping song 'I love the mountains' is a good starting point for writing about things and people we love. Children quickly memorise the poem and use it to write their own. From these words, writing can use the line words and phrases to make their own poems. Beginners quickly learn right words, and more advanced learners can extend their poems." Below this is a section titled "Teach the poem" with instructions: "Display the poem. Print to each child. Read the poem. Take turns to read the poem." and "Interactive worksheet" with a grid for writing. At the bottom, it says "Weighted resource available from the Read and Write program. Use Children's Poems, Use Children's Poems, Use Children's Poems." and "External resources: YouTube video of [I love the mountains](#) (song) YouTube video of [I love the mountains](#) (with actions)".

6. Draw or paint a self-portrait, or portrait of self with father

Provide children with a selection of papers and drawing or painting media to make a self-portrait for their Dads. Alternatively, they may wish to make a portrait of their Dad or of themselves with their Dads. This activity works well if they have already had opportunities to work with different media; for example:

pastels

crayons

pencils

felt pens

gel pens

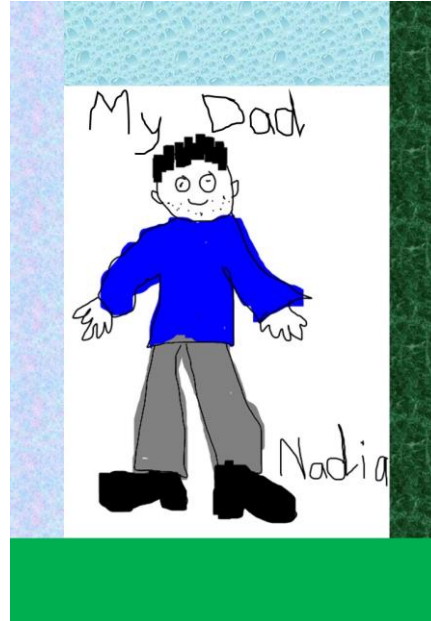
chalk

charcoal

watercolour paints

acrylic paints

powder paints



Provide a selection of collage materials from which children may choose to enhance their portraits if desired.

The finished portraits could be framed with strips of coloured paper and mounted on a stiff cardboard backing, or laminated for durability.

7. "I love you this much" card

"I love you this much" cards are a special gift made with the child's own handprints and extending into an outstretched hug. (Refer to the resource ["I love you this much" card](#) for step-by-step instructions.)

