Circle Time Ideas for Infants

(1) Baby Time
For a group game have the children take turns sitting a medium sized blanket for this time. The rest of the group kneel around the edge of the blanket. Let each child lift a baby laying in the middle of the blanket, rock the baby and sing it a lullaby. Now let them lay the baby down and cover it with a little blanket.

(2) Q-Tip painting
Let the children pain with q-tips and pastel paint on small pieces of paper. Frame their baby paintings on pastel construction paper, it turns out pretty.

(3) Show And Tell
Have one of your friends or parents who have a baby, bring the baby to your daycare or preschool for show and tell. Let the children watch the mother with the baby while she feeds it a bottle, feeds it food and let them ask all the questions they want about the baby and mother.

(4) Sensory Baby Time
Put baby dolls in the sensory area with soap and wash clothes. You may add clothes, diapers, empty bottles of powder, baby toys, etc.......

(5.) Magic Painting Bag
You need 1/4 cup of liquid laundry starch, 3 tablespoons of powdered tempra paint, a large ziplock plastic bag, masking or cloth tape and several colors of construction paper. Mix the starch and paint together and put a glob of it into the plastic bag. Squeeze out the air before "zipping" the bag closed. Putting a piece of tape across the top of the baggie will prevent any leaks. Gently smooth the bag to distribute the paint. Then show the children how to rub his hands over the bag, making swirls and designs. The fingerpainting
can be done on a table or the floor or on a lap tray. For a colorful effect slip a piece of construction paper under the bag to see how it changes the color of the paint.

(6) Putting a baby to bed
On white paper, have the children glue cut out pictures from magazines, of a baby to paper. Older children can draw their own babies. Then give them small pieces of felt or fabric to glue over the baby as a blanket. Can also glue picture of a teddy bear or other stuffed animal for the baby to sleep with. Now the baby is ready to sleep!

(7) Baby items to name during circle time:
In a diaper bag collect baby pacifiers, bottles, diapers, formula, newborn clothes, baby wipes, baby food jars, etc...ask each child to name the object and what it is used for.

(8) Baby Photos
Have parents bring a photo of their child when he or she was a baby (without the children knowing). Mix them all up and see if each child can pick out their own pictures. Have the children discuss what they remember about being babies. Let them crawl around. Perhaps even eat a jar of applesauce baby food with a little cinnamon added. It is fun to remember being smaller.

(9) Poem for baby’s
Little fingers, Little toes, Little mouth, Little nose.
Little ears, with which to hear, Little Baby, so precious and dear.

(10) Collage
Provide scraps of assorted baby gift wrap, pastel wall paper and snips of pastel ribbon and yarn to glue on construction paper back ground.
(11) Have a tasting Party

Try tasting several varieties of baby foods. Talk about why the food is smooth and why it is soft and the purpose of teeth for babies.

(12) Baby Grows Poem

Five little fingers on his hand, Five little fingers on that,
A dear little nose, A mouth like a rose,
Two cheeks so tiny and fat, Two eyes and two ears,
And ten little toes, That is the way the baby grows.

(13) Baby’s Nap Poem

This is a baby ready for a nap, Lay her down in her mother's lap.
Cover her head up so she won't peep, Rock her until she's fast asleep.

(14) Flannel Board Rhyme

Here is a baby so soft and small (place the baby on the board).
His legs can’t walk, so he must crawl.
He drinks from a bottle (place a baby bottle on the board).
And naps in a crib (place a crib on the board).
He dribbles his food, so he wears a bib (place a bib on the board).
When his pants are wet, he starts to cry (place a diaper on the board).
His mom will change him so he'll be dry (place a mother on the board).

(15) Sensory baby time

Wash the baby's in the sensory area, supply sponges, cut in half for scrubbing. To end the activity pass out washclothes to wrap the babies up in.

(16) Feely things to guess at

Place baby items such as a baby brush, a bor of baby soap, a cotton ball, a pacifier, a rubber teether and a rattle, etc. in a feely box or a bag.
Have the children take turns feeling an item and guessing what it is by its feel in the box or bag.

(17) Hand Prints from Home
Send a large piece of white construction paper home and have each family member of the child's family draw or have drawn their hand on the paper. Each person could then decorate the ahand print to reflect their likes. Some can have glitter, stickers, rings, nail polish, etc. Display them on your pre-school bulletin board for sharing with other's.

(18) A Me Museum
Have each child bring in a baby picture and some items such as clothing, toys, etc. they had when they were babies. Set these items up on some shelves and each child gets to talk about what she has brought in to share.

(19) Baby Warmer Ideas
The heartwarming thoughts of a quilt welcoming new babies and celebrating weddings for four generations create symbols of family love and faith.

(20) Family Scrap Books
Create a scrap book! Collect photographs, postcards, souveniers and other items from your favorite family activities. Save them in an album or a box. Bring them to share with friends.

(21) ALL about Me Book
Students do one page at a time, Pages may be already labeled or children, if able to, may copy heading from your chalk board. My name is: My color I like the best: I live at: I wake up: I go to sleep at: and so on, with the children filling in the blank and making pictures to go along with the sentence. A the end, teacher compiles all saved papers and makes a book for each child. Yes, it's a lot of work, but Each parent will keep it forever!
(22) Block Corner People

Take a full body picture of each child standing. After having the film developed, cut out around each child, stick the pictures to a wood unit block, cover with contact paper, and let the kids play with them. They can build themselves houses or just use their imaginations. You can also do this with each family member in a family.

(23) Family Finger Play (Hold up appropriate size finger for each person)

This is my mother, so sweet and nice.
This is my father, who hugs me twice.
This is my brother, so big and tall.
This is my sister, who's till quite small.
This is my baby, so little you see.

All different sizes in my family, you can see!

(A great flannel board story too!)

(24) My Family Story

If you Peek into my room at night (stand on toes as if peeking).
My family will see you (nodding your head).
They kiss my face and tuck me in tight (blow kisses out to everyone).
Why? Because they love me! (Hug yourself as you tell this!)

(25) Bean Bag People

Make Bean Bag People from old baby socks and larger socks (white).
Fill one sock with rice, sew it closed, place it inside the other sock and sew it closed again. Careful not to fill so full that they are hard and unyielding. Draw on faces with permanent markers. Put them in the block or doll house area's.
(26) **Shaving for fun**

Shaving cream, tooth paste roller uppers, bowls, towels, warm water, mirrors

Have everything ready to use. Let the child shave like daddy by squirting small amounts of shaving cream into his or her hand and letting them rub it onto their faces, arms or legs. Give each child a tooth past roller or a craft stick to pretend it is a razor. Boys and girls will enjoy it. Be sure to wipe off area when the child is finished. Using scented shaving cream is fun, too!

(27) **Family Caption Book**

Each child is given a book at the beginning of the year with a caption on each page. Books can be made using newsprint or construction paper. Examples are: My mother is special because........or My dad can... or My Grand Parents are special because.... or my brother or sister can......!

Each day the children are asked to draw a different picture and complete the sentence with your help. I wonderful book to bring home and read!

(28) **Family Collage**

Have the children go through magazines and find pictures of all the things their mothers do. Cut them out and glue them onto construction paper. The same can be done for dads. Another variation is to have the children cut out pictures to represent the people in their family and the things they like to do as a family!

(29) **Family House**

One idea you can do is to take a field trip to each families home to see where each of the children's families live. You can make wreaths ahead of time to hang outside on their doors so every one can recognize a child's house when they stopped. The children loved seeing where each child loved and their little faces just beam because someone took an interest
in something near and dear to them.......Their Family!

**(30) Special Times**

Have the parents send in a baby picture and tell about something special that happened on the day the child was born. Make a bulletin board display of the pictures and stories and read each caption about and to the children.

**(31) Home Made Books of Family Activities**

Make books with the children. One idea might be to collect logs from fast food ads and make a book about where each family likes to eat. The children can memorize the book and read each logo to the other children!

If you can put a picture of the child on each page it makes it better!

**(32) Peanuts and Smiles**

Rinse out a milk carton, then cut a doorway and a window in it to make a house. Your child can make a family for the house by drawing happy faces on peanut shells with felt tip pens. (Don't let the children eat the peanuts they can choke on them).

**(33) Family Puppets**

Give each child a cut out of a person (kind of like a ginger bread man pattern) then let the children decorate and make any family members they wish! Then attach them to craft sticks for fun!

**(34) Family House**

Give the children shapes of a house. They are given cookie cutters in the shape of people and animals. The children dip the appropriate family member in paint and then put in their home. You can label each person.

**(35) Puzzles**

Put out puzzles relating to families and family activities on your block tables set up as learning stations.