

**Theme:** Celebrating Dads and Special People

**Age Group:** 3-5 years old

**Duration:** 45 minutes - 1 hour

**Objectives:**

1. Make children aware of the importance of fathers and other special people in their lives.
2. Encourage creativity and self-expression through writing and crafting.
3. Develop fine motor skills through crafting.
4. Develop social-emotional learning through the expression of loving and appreciative sentiments.

**Materials Needed:**

- Colored construction paper
- Glue sticks
- Child-friendly scissors
- Markers, crayons, and colored pencils
- Stickers, glitter, and other craft decorations
- Photos of children with their dads or special people (optional, pre-sent by parents)
- Pre-written letter templates for "To My Dad" cards
- A special snack (such as cookies or juice boxes) for a celebratory snack

**Lesson Outline:**

**1. Circle Time Introduction (10 minutes)**

Objective: Describe the concept of Father's Day and discuss how dads are special.

- Gather children in a circle and begin with a simple question:
  - "Who is even more special in your life who takes care of you?"
  - Let children respond with names (dad, grandpa, uncle, etc.).
- Let them know that Father's Day is a special day to celebrate fathers and other special people in our lives. Use simple language such as:
  - "Dads play with us, love us, and support us. We're going to have some fun today demonstrating how much we love them!"
- Read a brief picture book about fathers, such as:
  - "My Dad" by Anthony Browne

- "Daddy Hugs" by Karen Katz
- "Guess How Much I Love You" by Sam McBratney (a favorite story of child and parent's love)

## **2. Craft Activity: "Superhero Dad Card" (15 minutes)**

Objective: Create personalized cards for dads or that special person.

- Distribute a folded piece of construction paper to each child to be used as the card's base.
- Illustrate some examples of superhero-themed designs (e.g., stars, masks, capes). Discuss that they could decorate their card to show that their dad is a "superhero."
- Assist children in writing or tracing a message inside the card, such as:
- "Dear Dad, You're my superhero because... [blank space]. Love, [Child's Name]."
- Have them decorate the outside of the card with markers, stickers, and other materials. Give hints if needed.

## **3. Art Project: Handprint Picture Frame (10 minutes)**

Objective: Create a keepsake gift using handprints.

- Give each child a plain wooden or cardboard picture frame (or a printed paper version of a frame).
- Have the children press one hand into paintable paint and then stamp it onto the frame. Add fingerprints along the edges for extra embellishment.
- After it dries, place a photo of the child with dad or a special person in the frame. If they don't have a picture, have them draw a picture of themselves and their dad instead.

## **4. Snack Break & Discussion (5-10 minutes)**

Objective: Practice gratitude while having a snack together.

- Serve a simple snack, such as heart-shaped cookies or cupcakes.
- Ask the children questions like:
  - "What is one nice thing your dad does for you?"
  - "How can we thank our dads today?"

## **5. Closing Activity: Song or Poem (5 minutes)**

Objective: Close the session with a group activity to honor dads.

Teach the children a simple song or poem about dads, such as:

Song:

(Tune: "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star")

"Daddy loves me so much,

He gives hugs, and he gives lunch.  
Playing games and reading books,  
Daddy always knows just what to do.  
I love you, Daddy, yes I do,  
Happy Father's Day to you!"  
Alternatively, have a short poem recited as a class.

**Extension Ideas:**

- Invite dads or visiting guests to the classroom at the end of the day to collect their personally made gifts.
- Send a message home inviting families to spend quality time together over the weekend.

**Assessment:**

- Observe participation in discussions and activities.
- Observe effort and participation in completing crafts and cards.
- Observe whether children display enthusiasm or pride when talking about their dads or special people.

This lesson plan ensures a balance of learning, creativity, and emotional connection, making it a meaningful way for preschoolers to celebrate Father's Day!