

# Calling Home

## Primary Objectives

2a. Forms relationships with adults

## Why It's Important

Some children find the separation from family members at drop-off time to be a challenge, such as when a parent goes to work or a visitor says good-bye. Since infants and toddlers enjoy pretending to talk on the phone, having toy phones and family photos around can help your child feel comforted, reassured, and connected his family after drop-off time.

## Materials

Family photos; a toy telephone or an unused real one

## What You Do

1. If your child cries after the good-bye, first offer comfort and acknowledge his feelings. For example, you might hold him and say in an empathetic tone, *It is so hard to say good-bye to Daddy.* Wait until your child is calm and alert before introducing the activity.
2. Point to the picture of your child's family and say, *I'm going to pretend to call your daddy.*
3. Pick up the phone and pretend to talk to your child's father.
4. Hand the phone to your child and say, *Would you like to talk?*
5. Encourage your child to talk to his family member by acknowledging his communication attempts. For example, as you point to the picture of your child's father, you might say, *You are saying hello. Hello, Daddy!* If necessary, prompt your child by offering words that he can use.
6. Make family photos available to your child throughout the day in photo albums or posted on the wall at your child's eye level. Encourage him to use the toy phone throughout the day when he wants to connect with his family.