May We Have Enough to Share
by Richard Van Camp
I can’t say enough about this book, it is just what we need to finish out this year on a positive note. Heartwarming photos, wonderful message—this is a must read! Ages 1-5.

Love and the Rocking Chair
by Leo and Diane Dillon
This is a touching story of a much-loved rocking chair and its many uses through several family generations. Difficult to get through this story with dry eyes. It is the last book that The Dillons created together, inspired by their own family story. Ages 4-7.

Other FUN Books About Family

Ish by Peter H. Reynolds
My favorite part of this story is Ramon’s younger sister who, in her creative way, believes in him even when he stops believing in himself. Ages 4-7.

Just Like a Mama by Alice Faye Duncan
Carol Olivia Clementine lives with Mama Rose and it is a very happy home. Although she still misses her mom and dad, she comes to realize that she loves Rose, “just like a mama!” Ages 4-7.

Little Miss, Big Sis by Amy Krouse Rosenthal
A sweet story about a little girl who is about to become a big sister and all that this involves. Ages 3-6.

Mr. Scruff by Simon James
About those who will always love us unconditionally - our dogs! This book also has fantastic, silly rhymes. Ages 4-7.

Night Job by Karen Hesse
Quiet book about the love between father and son as shown everyday and, in this case, night. Ages 5-8.

Sleepy, Oh So Sleepy by Denise Fleming
A wonderful story to read before bedtime or naptime. Ages 2-5.

Two Homes by Claire Masurel
A story to reassure children whose parents are divorced that there is a place for them in both homes and they are still just as loved as ever by their parents. Ages 4-7.

We’ll Paint the Octopus Red by Stephanie S. Bodeen
When Emma learns that her new baby brother was born with Down Syndrome, she asks her father, “If Isaac has this Down thing, then what can’t he do?” Together, Emma and her dad realize that there is nothing baby Isaac can’t do, especially when they all work together and help one another. This book is a wonderful one for families of children with special needs. Ages 3-7.

When Grandma Gives You a Lemon Tree by Jamie L. B. Deenihan
Love the quiet example of the Grandma in this story, gently encouraging her granddaughter away from electronics and towards nature and community. Ages 4-7.
My Family
This is mama, kind and dear (point to thumb)
This is papa, standing near (point to pointer finger)
This is brother, see how tall? (point to middle finger)
    This is sister, not so tall  (point to ring finger)
This is baby, sweet and small  (point to pinky finger)
    This is the family, one and all! (wiggle fingers)

Grandma’s Glasses
Here are Grandma’s glasses,
And here is Grandma’s hat,
This is the way she folds her hands
And lays them in her lap.
Here are Grandpa’s glasses,
And here is Grandpa’s hat,
This is the way he folds his arms
JUST LIKE THAT!

Fun learning Activities for December

Musical Letters
What you need:
    Container or box
    Letters (magnet letters, Scrabble letters, letters that you write on a piece of paper and cut out)
        • Children can help to gather or write out some of the letters
Put all the letters into the container and close the lid. Shake the container! Pull out a random letter. Can anyone think of a song that begins with the letter you drew? If yes, sing the song! If no, put the letter down and draw another one out of the box. This could be a fun game to play as a family where everyone can sing some family favorites altogether. Would also make a great rainy-day activity.

Family Blocks
This idea came from https://happilyevermom.com
What you need:
    Blocks - wooden blocks, Legos, Mega blocks…
    Holiday greeting cards OR printed photos
    Contact paper or clear tape
Cut out family photos to fit the blocks you are using. Stick your clear tape or contact paper to your picture (picture side facing out) and then tape the picture to the blocks. Make as many as you like with as many family members (and friends!) as you like. Creates a great opportunity for children to learn the names of family along with how they are related (aunt, uncle, cousin, great grandma!) This is also a great chance to learn about categorizing/graphing. A few examples for grouping or categorizing the blocks…
        • Adults/children
        • People with long hair/short hair
        • People wearing glasses/not wearing glasses
        • People who live far away/people who live close by

You can find much more Early Learning information on our website:
http://www.piercecountylibrary.org/
(In the Parents/Caregivers section of the Kids/Teens menu)