FAMILY ACTIVITY: FINGERPRINT IDENTIFICATION

Make copies of your fingerprints on paper for a closer look! Notice the patterns of your fingerprints and even compare them to the fingerprints that your family members have.

MATERIALS AND INSTRUCTIONS

Materials
- Paper
- Pencils
- Clear Tape

Instructions
1. On a blank sheet of paper trace around at least one of your hands using a pencil to create an outline of your hand shape.
2. On a second piece of paper draw a very dark circle a little bit larger than a quarter coin. Make this circle very dark - it should even look shiny due to all of the graphite you are putting on the paper!
3. Take one of the fingers of the hand that you traced in step 1 and rub the pad of your finger onto your dark circle spot. Make sure that your entire finger pad is covered in graphite from the pencil.
4. Take a piece of clear tape and place it over the finger that you now have coated in graphite.
5. Peel the piece of tape away from your finger and you should now see a copy of your fingerprint on the tape. Place the fingerprint tape piece down onto your hand tracing on top of the finger that you just took a fingerprint from.
6. Repeat steps 3, 4, and 5 until you have finished creating fingerprint copies of every one of your fingers.
7. Analyze and compare the patterns you can see in your fingerprints. Using a fingerprint identification chart you can learn the names of the different fingerprint patterns.

QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE

1. What can our fingerprints be used for?
   - Crime investigations to identify people involved, biometric security such as a fingerprint scanner on phones and computers
2. Do you think you have the same fingerprints as anyone else?
   - You do not
3. Do you have the same fingerprints on your left hand as you have on your right hand?
   - You do not
4. Do you think that identical twins would have the same fingerprints?
   - They do not
5. Fingerprints are unique- what else about you is unique? Are there other things that you know about that are one of a kind?

IDEAS TO INCLUDE YOUNGER SIBLINGS! (ADAPTATIONS FOR 0-5 YEAR OLDS)

- Preschools may enjoy tracing their own hands – or yours – and coloring them. What do they notice about what is the same/different about all the hands in our family? Do some people wear jewelry? Are the skin tones the same or different? How can you add details to distinguish one pair or hands from another?