

**Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum Guide Book Summary**

**Book title:** ***Papa, Do You Love Me?*Author:** Barbara M. Joosse  
**Main characters:** A boy and his father.  
**Executive summary:** A father uses examples of life and survival on the African Plain to show how much he loves his son. This story reveals how parents from different cultures and places all over the world love, teach, and protect their children even if they make mistakes.

**Detailed summary:** As a boy and his father walk through the African plain, the boy asks his father, whom he calls Papa, if he loves him. The father tells the boy that he loves him just as he loves all of his family. When the boy wants to know how much, Papa tells him he “loves him more than a warrior loves to leap;” more than a bush monkey loves the moon or the elders love to tell stories of the past. When the boy asks how long he will love him, Papa compares his love to the distance that the wildebeest run across the Mara plains of Kenya and the height of the Serengeti reaching the sky. Then the boy wonders what his father would do for him if he were hot from the blazing African sun. Papa would find him shade under a tree or in the shadow of his blanket spread wide. And if the boy was thirsty, Papa would give him water from a pouch called a Calabash, or he would take the boy to the river to drink, or teach him to find water in hidden streams underground. Now the boy wonders what his Papa would do if he were a herd boy who fell asleep while watching the cattle and a hyena killed a cow. His father tells him that he would be angry, but that would not make him stop loving his son. Instead he would teach him to stay awake. Together they would dance and sing by the moon. And if the boy was afraid, Papa would hug him and help him to face his fears. Papa will always love his son, teach him and protect him from all the dangers on the Serengeti.