The Hindu Home Shrine.

Hindu families have shrines, (prayer spaces) in their homes dedicated to a god or gods. A lot of worship takes place at home; children learn prayers and understand about their religion from their parents. Look at the picture of a home shrine; what do you notice?

Most Hindus worship more at home rather than in the Temple. When choosing a place for a shrine some well off families might have a spare room they can use, for many it will be a corner of their living room, it has to be somewhere very clean, out of respect. They make a small altar, which is usually close to the floor as Hindus sit on the floor when they pray, they will decorate it with colourful drapes. The family decides which god or goddess they want to dedicate their shrine to. Ganesha is a favourite god, he symbolises strength and protection, and so is Krishna, who symbolises love and kindness. They might have more than one god. The families will put a pictures or a statue of the god at the centre of their shrine. They pray at their shrine at least once a day especially in the morning and sometimes more often. The shrine is the centre of the house, for the Hindus there is a feeling that god is present in the home.