



Title: My Family/All our Families are Different

Level: FIRST

Code: 1.6

Links to Curriculum for Excellence

Experiences and outcomes	Benchmarks
I know that there are people in our lives who care for and look after us and I am aware that people may be cared for by parents, carers or other adults. HWB 1-45a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain that there are different types of families, with different roles. • Identify that families may differ, but they still care for each other.

About this activity

This lesson explores family life, in all its diversity. The children will talk about and celebrate their family. This activity links to the activities under 1.7 *People who help me and look after me*, where children explore other key adults who help and look after them as well as who in their family or beyond they would go to if they had a worry.

Resources to support this activity

- PowerPoint
- Sesame Street ‘Family Song’ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ii_LtHrEiao (finishes after 1 minute 16)
- Paper and colour pencils for family portraits
- Scratch Garden Families Song : <https://youtu.be/ZcpZKXPnbZs> (duration 3 minutes 36)

Activity

1. RSHP learning is enhanced if children can sit together, as in circle time. Explain that today the children will be talking about families. Share the slide:

Our Families. All our families are different. *(with images of families that look different/small, large, single parent etc)*

Acknowledge that sometimes children live with their mum or dad, some children are looked after by the gran or grandad or another family member. Some children have brothers or sisters, some have none (*check: who in this class has a brother? A sister?*) Some children live with two parents, some with one. Some children have parents and carers who live in different homes. Some children are adopted and they live with the parent who has adopted them. Some children live with a foster carer. Acknowledge that *it’s amazing how different all our families can be.*

2. Choose a story book you have recently read and explore the family members in the book. Ask the children to identify who is in the story. Also ask the children to say what family members do to help look after each other. (It would be useful to have the visual of the family from the book or a photo on the smartboard. If children have been reading different books each group can talk about a book/family they know – families don't need to be human, perhaps the book was about an animal family).
3. Introduce the Sesame Street "Family Song". Play it again if the children would like to sing or dance along.
4. Ask the children: So, when we think about our families, what do different people in our families do for us to care for and look after each other? What do you do that helps other people in your family?
5. Some children may want to share more about their family. Ask if anyone would like to come up and tell us who is in their family and the things they like to do with them, either individually or as a family. As children share acknowledge how different our families are. As educator/teacher, if you would like to, say a bit about your family.
6. **Family portraits.** Ask the children to draw a family picture, explain that they can include themselves, they can include anyone who loves and cares for them, so they don't have to live in the same house. If the children work at just A4 or even smaller at A3 they can do colour pencil drawings that won't necessarily take too long. Put them all on the wall under the heading: **Our families.**
7. Finish by playing the Sesame Street song again or sharing another song: Scratch Garden Families Song : <https://youtu.be/ZcpZKXPnbZs> (duration 3 minutes 36)

Additional ideas

- If the children are sitting in groups ask a different group every day to take care of a teddy. Explain that they are now part of their family and need to be cared for.
- If you have free play time set up a home/family corner.
- If they would like to, let the children take their family portraits home.
- Book: Todd Parr's **The Family Book** is good for work with small groups and individuals.
- There are a variety of story books that explore different types of families. Check out the booklist for this Level on <https://rshp.scot/first-level/>
- Looked after children may have questions around this topic. Please look at this list of appropriate picture books for more information: <https://www.littleparachutes.com/category/issues/adoption-fostering/>

Connecting with home

The text below could be used to communicate with home about this activity.

This week the children will be talking about families – we will be celebrating how different all our families are and thinking about all the things that families do to care for each other. The children will draw a family portrait, they will bring it home after we have displayed them on the wall for a while. In the meantime tell the children stories about your family life growing up!

Practitioner Notes

