



**Title: Our families**

**Level: EARLY**

**Links to Curriculum for Excellence**

Experiences/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 0-45a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifies people who can help, for example, teachers, family members.</li> <li>Recognises that care can come from a variety of different people.</li> <li>Identifies that families may be made up of different people.</li> </ul>

**Learning Intentions**

- Children talk about their own family.
- Children are able to describe the role of parents and carers.
- Children discuss different family situations.

**Success criteria**

- I understand that families are made up of lots of different people who care for us.
- I can think about my own family.
- I know that I have a right to be cared for in certain ways and why this is important.
- I know that care can be different and come from different people.
- I understand there are lots of types of family.
- I appreciate that everyone comes from different kinds of families.
- I am learning to respect how people’s lives are different.

**Connecting with home**

Information for parents and carers is provided at each Level on the RSHP site. Some of the suggested activities include links with home. Books suggested for use in the centre/school could also be for lending.

**Key words/vocabulary**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Auntie</li> <li>• Brother</li> <li>• Cousin</li> <li>• Father/Dad (and variations used)</li> <li>• Grandfather/Grandpa (and variations used)</li> <li>• Grandmother/Gran/Nan (and variations used)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Husband</li> <li>• Mother/mum (and variations used)</li> <li>• Partner</li> <li>• Sister</li> <li>• Uncle</li> <li>• Wife</li> </ul> |
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## ACTIVITIES

Learning can be planned or take place in what we might call those spontaneous ‘teachable moments’ when children and educators are playing and chatting, or a particular event happens. Of course, we can create those teachable moments too, and so there are suggestions here about how books, play and other activities can support RSHP learning at Early Level.

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### Talking about my family

Whether at Circle Time or in conversation and play children can be encouraged to talk about family members – what they do with them, who plays with them, reads them a book or makes tea. The different names children use for family members could be acknowledged and listed.

Conversations can help children to learn about immediate and extended family – some children may live with extended family of course.

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### Family tree

Make a version of a family tree so that relationships can be explained and the names of family members can be identified – this is a good way to find out all the different names for parents (Mum, mama etc) and grandparents (including names used from languages spoken at home. *This activity should be undertaken with an awareness of children’s home circumstances – for example a child being looked after or in case of a recent bereavement.*

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### Family portraits

Children can draw their family and write/talk about their picture. They could be encouraged to include whoever they want, not limited to who they live with. Differences and similarities between family structures can be identified and validated. Use the portraits to compare children’s families: I have... and you have...

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### Explore images of different families

Use photographs as props to explore different families – some large, some small, 2 parents or 1 parent – grandparents as main carers etc. **A set of PowerPoint images is provided.**

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### Home corner

There are endless possibilities for play in an area of the room set up with domestic props. Girls and boys can be encouraged to play whatever role they want in this play.

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### Family celebrations

Family events can be acknowledged when gathering together and in individual conversations and play with children. Photographs and stories of family gatherings and weddings can be shared – parents and carers could be encouraged to provide photos of events attended by the child so that they can tell others. Invite parents or colleagues to come and share photos and stories from a family event.

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**Sad times**

Through discussion and play it is also possible to explore situations and feelings that can happen in families, children can be sad when someone is very ill, when someone leaves, when someone dies. While this is difficult there are opportunities to acknowledge for a child when such circumstances occur, for example with a bereavement.

*Parents and carers should be encouraged - in your regular communication with home - to let you know when such circumstances are experienced by a child so that their play, talk and behaviour can be understood as possibly reflecting concerns or upset.*

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**Changes in the family**

Discuss how families can change – and use children’s experiences. When there is a new baby. When parents meet new partners. When there are new siblings in a new family set-up. Some of the books below talk about change and diversity in families. Again, parents and carers can be encouraged to let you know when changes are happening for a family/child.

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**BOOKS FOR READING TOGETHER OR BORROWING**

**Please check out the full reading list provided at Early Level.** The books listed here provide opportunities to talk about the themes of interest, they could be used with a class or group, reading to pairs or individual children to support and back-up key learning. Parents and carers could be encouraged to read them at home too.

**The Great Big Book of Families**

Mary Hoffman ISBN 1847805876

A celebration of the huge diversity found within contemporary families.

**The Family Book**

Todd Parr ISBN 0316070408

The Family Book celebrates the love we feel for our families and all the different varieties they come in. Whether you have two mums or two dads, a big family or a small family, a clean family or a messy one, Todd Parr assures readers that no matter what kind of family you have, every family is special in its own unique way.

**Families, Families, Families!**

Suzanne Lang ISBN 9780552572927

If you love each other then you are a family. Discover a whole host of silly animal families in this celebration of the love found in families big and small.

### **Who's in a Family**

Robert Skutch ISBN 1883672139

Family is important, but who's in a family? It's the people who love you the most! This picture book has no preconceptions about what makes a family a family. There's even equal time given to some of children's favourite animal families.

### **We belong together: a book about adoption and families**

Todd Parr ISBN 0-316-01668-3

There are lots of different ways to make a family. It just takes love.

### **Do you sing twinkle? A story about remarriage and new family**

Sandra Levins ISBN 1433805391

Living apart from a parent can be a hard adjustment for a child. If that parent remarries and has stepchildren, things can get confusing. Told from a young boy's point of view, this book addresses many feelings and questions that children may have while adjusting to remarriage and a blended family after their parents' divorce.

### **Mommy, Mama and Me**

Leslea Newman ISBN 1582462631

Rhythmic text and illustrations with universal appeal show a toddler spending the day with its mums. From hide-and-seek to dress-up, then bath time and a kiss goodnight, there's no limit to what a loving family can do together.

### **King and King**

Linda de Haan ISBN 1582460612

Once there lived a lovelorn prince whose mother decreed that he must marry by the end of the summer. So began the search to find the prince's perfect match and lo and behold.....his name was Lee. You are cordially invited to join the merriest, most unexpected wedding of the year. A tale about finding true love and living happily ever after.