MY FAMILY, YOUR FAMILY

CFE 3273V

OPEN CAPTIONED
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Grade Levels: K-4
16 minutes
DESCRIPTION

Who makes up a family? Do they all live together in the same house? How are families different? Simple, clear explanations answer these and other questions. Explores, in easy terms, stepfamilies and other basic problem areas children may have. Encourages children to express their feelings to an older person.

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

• To define the term family.
• To illustrate and examine the different types of families.
• To emphasize the worth of each type of family and family member.
• To encourage open communications about feelings to other family members.

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Read the CAPTION SCRIPT to determine unfamiliar vocabulary and language concepts.
2. Present the term family and discuss its definition. Record suggested words and phrases.

DURING SHOWING

1. View the video more than once, with one showing uninterrupted.
2. Pause after the classroom discussion segment. Compare the responses to those recorded in BEFORE SHOWING. Include:
   a. Pets as family members
   b. Stepparents as family members
   c. Big families with many children
   d. Small families with few children
   e. Family members who have moved out
   f. Extended family members such as cousins, grandparents, aunts
3. Pause after Sam’s family segment. Discuss the on-screen questions:
a. Can pets be counted as family?
b. Can you count people who live in different places?

4. Pause after Cindy’s family segment. Discuss the on-screen questions:
a. What can Cindy say to her mother?
b. How could telling your feelings help you get along better in your family?

5. Pause after Jeremy’s family segment. Relate how telling his feelings to his dad helped Jeremy.

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. Identify the different types of families. Compare and discuss different types of families.
2. Identify family members including those who are extended family. Determine each member’s role and importance to the family unit. Using the responses, create a chart or diagram.
3. Compare a nuclear family with an extended family.
4. Discuss how spending time with parents who live in different homes might be a positive or a negative experience.
5. Identify and discuss problem solving techniques used to meet family members’ needs.
6. Determine what role communication plays in good family-living situations.
7. Name and discuss some ways Mom could help Cindy feel less excluded in her new family situation.
8. Decide why it is important for children to spend time with both parents even after a divorce.

Applications and Activities

1. Create a web of information expanding the term \textit{family}.
2. Make personal collages of pictures of family members, with self-portraits in the center. Label each
family member. Display and entitle “Your Family, My Family.”

3. Role-play family situations. Include:
   a. Feelings of unfair treatment
   b. An only child family outing
   c. A large family at the dinner table
   d. A divorced family weekend
   e. An extended family picnic
   f. A blended or stepfamily birthday party

4. Play the ball game like Emily and her friends did. Name personal family members.

5. Observe pictures or photos of families doing different things together. Interpret family member roles and relationships.

6. Play “What’s My Line?” Role-play different family members as mystery guests who sign in, out of the panel’s sight. The panel questions the guest, asking only yes or no questions, such as:
   a. “Mystery guest, are you a male?”
   b. “Do you go to school, Mystery Guest?”
   c. “Are you married, Mystery Guest?”
   d. “Mystery Guest, do you live in the same house with your parents?”
   e. “Mystery Guest, are you an uncle?”

7. Write a story about an activity the whole family likes to do together.

8. Create a family album. Draw pictures of family members and label each picture.

9. Write a sentence telling a significant contribution personally made to the family. Illustrate it.

10. Draw a picture of a personal family member who helps talk about problems. Write a sentence or two explaining how this family member helps with problems.

WEBSITES

Explore the Internet to discover sites related to this topic. Check the CFV website for related information (http://www.cfv.org).
CAPTION SCRIPT

Following are the captions as they appear on the video. Teachers are encouraged to read the script prior to viewing the video for pertinent vocabulary, to discover language patterns within the captions, or to determine content for introduction or review. Enlarged copies may be given to students as a language exercise.

Whether your family is big or small, were playing a game about families.

Mother, Father, cousins, and brothers, My name is Emily and here is my family:

The size doesn't really matter at all, Father.

As long as it's people who care for each other, Mother.

Your family, Brother.

We're all different, as you can see Muffin.

My family Hey, you can't count your cat!

My family It's not human.

Your family Yes, I can!

A family is a good thing to be! She lives with us and we love her, so why not?

How many different kinds of families are there? Oh, all right.

Many kinds-- Then I can count my parakeet!

big families, small families, A parakeet isn't like a cat.

with both a mom and a dad, He lives with us

with only a mom or only a dad... so he's family--

even mixed-up together. just like Muffin.

One day Sam, Emily, Come on, Cindy, take your turn.

Jeremy and Cindy My name is Cindy and here is my family.
Mother.
Stepmother.
What's a stepmother?
My dad's new wife.
Stepfather....
You're gonna take forever!
[bell ringing]
Good thing the bell rang.
It would take all day
counting your stepmother
and everybody.
(Cindy)
Well, you counted
your parakeet!
Sam counted his parakeet
as family.
Is that okay?
Hmm. Well...
SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD TIME
to talk about
what makes a family.
Everyone agrees
Sam can count his parakeet?
Right. Right. Right.
And Emily can count her cat?
Right.
Right. Right.
And Cindy can count her
stepmother and stepfather.
So...what makes a family?
I always thought
it was the people
who live together in a house;
like Mother, Father and kids.
And their pets.
It could be a lot of kids--
like we have five kids.
Or a few.
Does everyone have to live
in the same house?
No, because my dad lives
in a different house.
I have a sister in college.
She's not in my house,
but she is still my sister.
I can count people
who don't live
in my house?
My family would be bigger.
Like cousins, right?
(female narrator)
Sam felt better
after the class talked.
He thought
his family was smallest.
Then he added
his grandparents,
Aunt Ruth and cousins.
He hurried home
to talk to his mother.
Guess what I learned today?
What?
Our family is more
than you, me and Dad.
Right.
Families don't have
to live together.
Right! We have a big family.
I forget them all.
Let's pull out all our pictures
and see who our family is.
Even Uncle Bob in New Jersey?
Even Uncle Bob.
Let's go see what we can find.
Here's your cousins...
Brenda...
Here's Uncle Bob...
Aunt Ruth...
Your little cousin...
Wow! There are
lots of people.
Whether your family
is big or small
Mother, Father,
cousins, and brothers
The size doesn't
really matter at all
As long as it's people
who care for each other
Your family
My family
We're all different,
as you can see
My family
Your family
A family is
a good thing to be!
So what is a family?
What do you think?
Think about these questions
then talk about them.

Cindy's family has had
a lot of changes.
First there was
Cindy, her mom and dad.
Then her mom and
dad got a divorce.
They stopped being
married anymore.
Then her mother
married someone else.
Cindy liked
her new stepfather Bob.
Bob had two older sons,
Eric and Mark.
It was fun
having big brothers.
Then, the most
exciting thing happened--
hers and Bob had a baby!
She thought a baby
would be wonderful,
especially a baby sister.
But when Amy moved
into Cindy's room,
that wasn't so great.
Sometimes, Amy
woke Cindy up at night.
During the daytime,
Cindy never had
her room to herself.
When her stepbrothers came
on weekends and vacations,
Eric and Mark wanted to do.
Cindy never got
to choose.
She began to feel she wasn't very important.  
[baby crying]  
Oh, dear—I was hoping Amy would take a longer nap.  
I have so much to do.  

Mom. Could you wash this apple, please?  
Cindy, would you go talk to her?  
But, Mom!  
Emily's waiting for me.  
You can be a little late.  

Please, just go do it and don't argue.  

[thinking]  
She doesn't care about me anymore.  
It's always Amy this, Amy that,  
and every weekend Eric and Mark...  
Hey, Sis, think fast!  
I'm not your sister!  
Okay, okay.  
Take it easy.  
What's wrong?  
Every time you come here,  
we always do the dumb stuff  
you and Mark want.  
I always have to help with Amy,  
and Mom doesn't pay attention to me.  

Sounds bad!  
Before, you were alone with Mom.  
Suddenly you have Dad, Mark and me around.  
And now Amy!  
No wonder you feel sort of left out.  
But you know, when you feel sad and left out,  
tell people--like you're doing now.  
And once people know, sometimes they can help.  

You know how grownups say, "Now use your words..."  
You mean tell Mom when I'm feeling left out?  
Sure. She wants to know  
so she can help you feel better.  
And when Mark and I get too bossy,  
just tell us.  

I'll try.  
Thanks, Eric.  
It's not so bad having a brother!  

Hey, I forgot to go to Emily's house.  
Bye!
Some families change
And become a new kind
Some have sisters,
and some have stepbrothers
The kind doesn't matter
Whatever the name
As long as it's people who
care for each other
Your family
My family
We're all different,
as you can see
My family
Your family
A family is
a good thing to be!
It's not easy to bring
parts of different
families together
to make a new family
without someone
getting hurt feelings.
But Cindy learned something
very important from Eric...
Think about these questions
and then talk about them.
Jeremy was very excited.
He got a letter.
That didn't happen very often.
But even more exciting,
it was an invitation
to Emily's birthday party--
It's a pirate treasure hunt!
Oh, Jeremy--that sounds
like so much fun.
But Saturday,
you and Susan
will be at Dad's.
Can't we change it,
just this once?
I don't see how.
I can't change
my business trip this weekend.
I wish you and Dad
never got divorced.
Oh, Sweetie,
I know it's really
hard sometimes.
Daddy and I
don't live together anymore,
but we both want to be
with you and Susan.
You go there on weekends
to keep it fair.
It's not fair to me!
Jeremy is having a problem
that often happens
when parents divorce.
His mother and father
live in different towns now.
They both love
Jeremy and Susan
and they want time with them.
At first it worked out,
but now Jeremy is feeling sad
because he's never
with his school friends.

(Susan)
I'm going to Peggy's.

(Dad)
Okay. See you later.

Whoa!
What's wrong, Jeremy?

Emily is having her birthday party tomorrow.

There will be a pirate treasure hunt.

Everyone is going!
It's not fair!

So you wish you could be there?

Sort of.

I hate going back and forth all the time.

Why can't you come back home?

We've already explained it.

We're not happy living together.

Yeah, I know.

You still love us and want it to be fair.

But it isn't fair to you, right?

I could take you to the party tomorrow--

I already told Emily I couldn't come.

She'd be glad if you said you could.

Tonight we can buy her a present.

You mean it?

Why not?

And later, let's talk to Mom about ways we can make it easier for you.

I thought the divorce was like a law.

Not really.

We just want the best for everyone.

If that's not good for you, we'll make changes.

Okay?

Okay!

(narrator)
Sometimes it's hard to understand things, like Jeremy thinking he was stuck.

It's good to talk about how we feel then work out what's best for everyone.

So what is a family?

Jeremy has one kind, and Emily has another.

Cindy's and Sam's family are different.

Some families all live together in one house, and parts of some families live in different places.

Your family,
my family--
they're all different,
but they're all families.

Your family
My family
We're all different,
as you can see

My family

Your family
A family is
a good thing to be!

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