WE’RE A FAMILY

CFE 3315V

OPEN CAPTIONED
SUNBURST COMMUNICATIONS
1992
Grade Levels: 1-6
15 minutes
DESCRIPTION
Families come in different forms. Some are traditional, some blended or step, and some are single parent. Presents the concept that, no matter the structure, families are made of people who care for, love, listen to, and share time with each other.

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS
- To present different types of families.
- To illustrate changes and adaptations a family can experience.
- To emphasize acceptance and appreciation of various types of families.

BEFORE SHOWING
1. Read the CAPTION SCRIPT to determine unfamiliar vocabulary and language concepts.
2. List words and/or concepts which may be used to describe a family.

DURING SHOWING
1. View the video more than once, with one showing uninterrupted.
2. Imagine being in the same situations as these children of different families. Record personal thoughts and feelings.

AFTER SHOWING
Discussion Items and Questions
1. Just the Right Size
   a. Discuss the positives and negatives Ellen expressed about having brothers and sisters.
   b. Explain reasons Jason gives which show he appreciates being an only child.
   c. Discuss why an only child like Jason would sometimes wish to have brothers and sisters.
d. Justify why size does not matter, as the video states, “You’re still a family.”

2. I Have Two Families
   a. Identify Molly’s problem.
   b. Discuss and evaluate Molly’s solution to her problem.
   c. Devise one sentence to rephrase Molly’s solution. Use terms like: talk, communicate, communication, feel, and feelings.

3. My Family Changed
   a. Children often feel embarrassed when their parents divorce. Discuss what could be done to support a friend in this situation.
   b. Relate Jeff’s mom’s explanation that even without Dad, they are still a family.
   c. Every family goes through changes. Identify changes which can affect a family.

4. My New Family
   a. Describe Dennis’s and Jennifer’s feelings when they first arrived at Tony’s house.
   b. Explain and defend Mom’s actions when she left the two girls alone.
   c. List the reasons Jennifer and Amy now look forward to becoming a new family.
   d. Explain why Tony may have taken Dennis with him to the store without his mother. Defend his actions.

Applications and Activities

1. Just the Right Size
   a. Create a chart depicting the pros and cons of having brothers and sisters.
   b. Debate issues of being an only child.
   c. On strips of paper, write selected nouns. Choose a paper strip and compare the noun to a family by relating how size has no effect on its identity.

2. I Have Two Families
   a. Create a “warning label” for a divorce. Inform children that they are never to blame.
b. Editorialize support for a two-family situation like Molly’s. Consider sayings like: “Double your pleasure,” “Two heads are better than one,” or “Twice as nice.”

3. My Family Changed
   a. List the feelings that Jeff has about his new family configuration.
   b. Pretend to be Jeff and write a letter to his mother telling her how he feels and why.
   c. Generate a list of activities that might make children whose parents are divorced feel included in a family picnic.

4. My New Family
   a. Role-play meeting a new stepbrother or stepsister. Create a list of questions to ask him or her. “Interview” the new family member.
   b. Write a letter to a new stepparent, stepsister, and stepbrother. Tell about personal likes, dislikes, hobbies, favorite things, and so on.

5. Create a bulletin board display of different types of families. Include:
   a. Small families
   b. Large families
   c. Single-parent families
   d. Two-parent families
   e. Stepfamilies
   f. Two-family families

6. Compose and present a TV commercial selling your product: a family. Present a family’s “selling points” such as:
   a. Every family is different.
   b. Every family is also the same.
   c. Every family has people who care about each other.
   d. Families share their time, feelings, and love.
   e. Families are a special part of life.
   f. No matter what differences families have, a family will always be a family!
COMMUNICATION SKILLS

1. Pretend the family will be getting new family members who know nothing about deafness and sign language. Generate a plan to help them become informed about deafness and learn some signs.

2. Use this language model to compare and explain the differences and similarities between families:
   Families are different because __________________.
   Families are alike because ____________________.

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.

Let's work here.
Really spread out.

Yeah! Where do we start?

On the title,
and leave room for the map.

This is great.

I bet we get an A-plus.

Yeah. Okay, the title is...

Current Map of Africa.

Okay.

So, let's lay out the letters.

Spacing the letters right is hard.

Hi, Ellen.
What are you doing?

A geography project.

We're doing the title first.

The spacing needs to look good.

Just put it in the middle.

First, find the middle.

Measure the letters,
add 'em up,
then divide by two.

Yeah. That'll work.

Let's try it.

Thanks, Rog.

They're really nice.

I wish I had a brother and sister.

They're okay... sometimes.

I have another sister in college.

Who've you got?

Just me.

I wish I had someone though.

Michelle! Our project!

Hey! Quit it.

Go to someplace else.

Don't have a fit!

I'm not hurtin' anything.

[phone ringing]
I'll get it!

Hello. Oh, Hi, Mike.
Yeah.
Ha-ha! *No way!*
Whoa! *That's great!*
Yeah? *Ha-ha.*
Ok. *That sounds good.*
I can't believe this.
Could you please go to another room?
[mocking voice]
Go to another room.
*Well, listen, I gotta go.*
Alright, *I'll see you.*
See you tomorrow.
Bye-bye.
Let's go to my house.
It's quieter there.
It's pretty noisy here.
My room has a big desk.
Let's work there.
You have your own room? *Neat!*
I share with Michelle.
She can be a pain.
But you have someone to talk to.
Sometimes it's great.
*I'd like it, Except sharing my room.*
and always having people around.
It's fun... I'm used to it.
I'm used to mine.
Maybe it works out okay.
I guess.
You're right!
Come on.
Let's go.
There are all kinds of families.
Some are big... some are small.
Some live together... and some live far apart.
It doesn't matter.
You're still a family.
Oh, *cool!* *Look, a mystery.*
*That's really neat,*
but I already read it.
Oh.
Molly!
Are you wearing your uniform to the Girl Scout father/daughter baseball game?
Yeah.
That's if I go.
Why wouldn't you?
Who should I take...
my father
or my stepdad.

Oh, yeah.

I want to ask
my father,

but my stepdad
might be upset.

Gee, that’s hard.
It’s hard
having two dads
and two families.

Phew!
We got a lot done today.

Yeah. I’m tired.

You’ve been
awfully quiet too.

Is something wrong?

No, not really.

I know you
better than that.

Whenever
you’re thinking,
you’re quiet.

It’s about the trip
to the baseball game.

What about it?

Maybe I should ask
my father
to take me.

That’s okay.

I’m your stepdad.

I’m not a replacement
for your father.

Do you think
it’s okay with Mom?

Molly...
we all want what’s
best for you.

It’s really okay?

Sure.
I’m glad you
talked to me.

You care about
my feelings.

Anyway,
I hate baseball.

I knew I made
a good choice.

Why?
Choosing Mom and you
for my family.

Well, having
two families is hard.

But you have
more people who
care about you.

Yeah.
Come on, let’s go.

So what happened?

Did you ask him?
Was he mad?

No, not at all.

He said it’s fine.

That’s great!

I’m going to tell him
to bring Jason.

Who’s Jason?

My father’s new wife
has a kid—

Jason.
He’s in sixth grade.
Can you bring him?
He's not really your brother.
He's my stepbrother.
He's neat
and he's in my family too.
Families share thoughts and feelings.
Families talk out problems.

Sometimes, having two families is hard.
But it's great too.
It's nice having many people who care about you.

So, Jeff,
you going to the family picnic?
I don't know.
Come on.
You've got to go.
Last year was great.
Yeah...but it'd just be me and Mom.

So?
I didn't give her the notice yet.
Come on.
You gotta go.

Our families can sit together,
like last year.
It'll be fun.
they will have 
their families.
And you'll have yours.
We don't have
a family
without Dad.
Our family is just changed.
Well...
it feels different.
Everybody's family
is different.
Some families have
two parents
living together,
some families only
have one...
it's still a family.
I guess.
There's a few days
to decide.
Think about it.
Okay.
Did you ask your mom?
Yeah.
Are you going?
I feel funny
that it's just
me and Mom.
So what?
It is a family picnic.
A lot of kids live
with one parent.
Bobby,
Tom and Jessica all do.
They're all going.
I guess.
So, now you're going?
Sure.
Hey, you entering
the sack race?
Yeah, with Mom.
Me too.
Some families
have two parents,
some have one.
Some live together...
some don't.
Everybody's family
is different.
So what is a family?
People who care for you
and each other.
There are all
types of families.
And each is different.
Alright, guys,
You bring the stuff in.
I'll tell
Tony we're here.
Meet ya 'round back.
Okay.
I don't want
to meet
Tony's daughter.
But...Mom is marrying Tony.
We'll be
living together.

What if I hate her?

It's weird.

Is she our sister?

I can't call
Tony Dad!

Me neither.

Well, let's go.

Oh, here
they are.

Amy, I'd like you
to meet Dennis
and Jennifer.

This is Amy.

Hi.            Hi.

Dennis, let's
go help Tony.

You two
can go swimming
if you like.

Okay.            Okay.

Do you want
to go swimming?

I don't know.

We don't have to.

Maybe we could
just play a game.

Do you think it
will be funny?

Moving into our house?

Yeah, sort of.

I never had a
brother or sister.

Maybe that will be good.

Yeah, I never
had a sister.

Just my dumb brother.

Will you call
my mom, Mom?

I don't know.

What about you?

I don't know.

Can I call him Tony?

Oh, sure.

He won't mind.

You want
to play again?

Sure.

Do you want
to come to the store?

No. Do you?

No. I'm having fun.

We'll stay here.

Okay.

See you later then.

Did you bring
that tape?

Let's tell everybody
at school we're twins.

Twins? Cool!

Let's wear the same
clothes and hair.

Neat! Ha-ha.

Sometimes two families
can come together
to form a new family.

Maybe it's strange
and scary.
but exciting too.

New families can learn
to love each other.

And later they'll see
it's not
strange at all.

Families are different...
but they're also the same.

Cause every family
has people
who care
about the others.

Families share
their time, feelings,
and most importantly, love.

Your family
is a part of you...

and you're
a part of it.

It's a special part
of your life.

I'm part of
a special family

There's no one

quite like mine

'Cause every
family's different

There are all types
and all kinds

And though our families
are different

In people, size, and name

A family's still a family

And they're really
quite the same

'Cause a family
is for caring

For loving, and for sharing

And though we're
different as can be

We're still a family

We're a family

Funding for purchase
and captioning of this video

was provided by the
U.S. Department of Education:

PH: 1-800-572-5580 (v).