



#9730

THAT'S A FAMILY

WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL MEDIA, 2000

Grade Levels: 3-7

23 minutes

DESCRIPTION

Several children describe what a family is and does, focusing primarily on the various combinations of adult caregivers. They discuss mixed-race families, adoption, being raised by grandparents or other extended family, guardians, and single and same-sex parents. Reminds that affection, security, and nurturing are most important in any family unit combination.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Behavioral Studies

- ★ Standard: Understands that group and cultural influences contribute to human development, identity, and behavior
 - Benchmark: Understands that the groups to which a person belongs (e.g., family, friends, team, community) influence in varying degrees how she or he thinks and acts (See Instructional Goal #1.)
- ★ Standard: Understands various meanings of social group, general implications of group membership, and different ways that groups function
 - Benchmark: Knows unique features of different groups to which she or he belongs (e.g., family, team, class), and also features of these groups that overlap with other groups (See Instructional Goal #2.)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To describe different family structures and ways that families can be mixed.
2. To compare families.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Students may have painful experiences in their families. It is important to create a safe environment so those students will feel comfortable sharing their feelings, asking for help, or passing if they choose not to share information about their families.

VOCABULARY

1. adopted
2. birth dad
3. birth mom
4. divorced
5. foster parent
6. gay
7. granny
8. guardian
9. lesbian
10. mixed families
11. mixed-race
12. orphanage
13. papa
14. relatives
15. single parent

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Draw a picture of the people in your family.
2. List what makes a good family.

AFTER SHOWING

► Discussion Items and Questions

1. Which part of this video felt the most familiar? Which part felt the most unfamiliar?
2. What questions would you ask the children who were in the video?
3. How would you feel if someone said bad things about your family?
4. What is a mixed-race family? What other ways are families mixed besides race?
5. What does it mean to be adopted? Why do people adopt children? Why do some children need to be adopted?
6. What is the difference between a birth parent and an adoptive parent?
7. Why is it inappropriate to ask someone who is adopted, "Who is your real mom"?
8. What are some differences in adopted families?
9. Why might some children live with grandparents, foster parents, other family members, or guardians?
10. What is challenging about having two moms or two dads? Why do some children have two moms or two dads?
11. How do divorce and separation change families?
12. Why are some children in single-parent families?



► Applications and Activities

1. Invite significant adults from students' families to class. Interview the adults with questions generated by the class.
2. Create a book about your family. On each page draw a picture of one family member. Describe the family member and things you like to do with that person.
3. Bring a family memento or important artifact to school. Talk about each object and its meaning in your family. Write a story about your family and the object.
4. Make a graph showing the different countries in the family background of the class.
5. Design a poster or bulletin board describing different types of families. Consider mixed families, adoptive families, grandparent families, guardian families, gay and lesbian families, and single-parent families.

RELATED RESOURCES



- [My Family, Your Family #3273](#)



World Wide Web

The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.



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- **FAMILIES LIKE MINE**

<http://www.familieslikemine.com/>

This site for children of gay and lesbian parents has information, resources, and answers common questions.

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- **AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR DEAF CHILDREN**

<http://www.deafchildren.org/home/home.html>

This site is devoted to empowering parents of deaf and hard of hearing children to make informed decisions regarding all aspects of their child's and family's life.

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- **ADOPTED JUST LIKE ME**

<http://www.olderchildadoption.com/forkids/>

This web page, created by an adopted child, explores her personal adoption story, has numerous other adoption stories, and also games, puzzles, and explorations of feelings associated with birth families and adoptions.

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- **KID'S HEALTH: DEALING WITH FEELINGS**

<http://www.kidshealth.org/kid/feeling/>

This site's home and family section includes the topics of adoption, divorce, blended families, foster families, single parents, stepparents, and living with grandparents.

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- **KID'S TURN**

<http://www.kidsturn.org/>

With information for kids, parents, and professionals, this organization helps kids and parents through divorce. Includes artwork, letters from kids, and puzzles.