



ACTIVITY 1

LEARNING GOALS

By the end of the WEEK, your child/ren should be able to:

- Understand that different families share similarities but are different in many ways
- Identify things that make their family unique

<u>RESOURCES</u>

• None

VOCABULARY

- Family
- Unique
- Birth family
 - Adopted

<u>ACTIVITY</u>

- Explain to your child that families can be different and unique, but all families have love.
- Continue to ask some questions, such as, "What different kinds of families do we know?" (Think of families you both know where there is only a mum, or only a dad, or a grandmother or grandfather looking after the children etc.).
- Describe families you know that have sons, daughters, or both; families that have a pet and those that don't; describe as many differences between families you know that you can both think of.
- Explain to your child that a family is made up of people who care about one another. Some children are cared for by their grandparents, mother, father, older brothers, and sisters, some by many people, and some by just one.
- If you have very good friends who also take care of your child from time to time, let your child know that sometimes, great friends feel like family because they will always help you, want the best for you, and be there for you.
- Explain what the words "unique" and "adopted" mean. For example: "'Unique' means that there are things that are special only to you. 'Birth family' means the mother or father or family someone is born into. When a child is 'adopted', it means that they could not live with their birth family, and so they live with another family who loves them very much and take care of them."
- End the activity by singing the song below.

SONG (to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star")

I have a unique family I love them, and they love me No matter what family you have They'll take care of you with love Families are different. This is true All families love, and yours loves you.

ACTIVITY 2

LEARNING GOALS

By the end of the WEEK, your child/ren should be able to:

- Understand that different families share similarities but are different in many ways
- Identify things that make their family unique

RESOURCES

- Family Photos (copied)
- Paper/Recycled Car Markers/Crayons

VOCABULARY

- Family
- Unique

- Start the activity by looking at some family photos together. Ask your child to name the family members and talk about what is happening in the photo, recalling special moments you have shared. Be sure to include extended family members (whether in the photo/s or not) and point out other family members that may live in another country. Describe to your child any other family members you have no photos of and tell stories about them. If you have a family pet, include it as part of your family too.
- Now sing the song in Activity 1.
- Talk respectfully about other families you know from school, friends, or the community.
- Invite your child to draw their family; if you have a pet, include them in the picture. While drawing the family members, identify the different physical features of everyone – what is different and what is similar amongst them.
- Then talk about how much you love each family member. Identify something specific that you like about them or what they do to help the family. For example: "I love your brother Juanito so much. He's kind and helps me to fold the laundry."
- When your child has finished their family picture, ask them to tell you who each family member is, what they have in common and what is different.
- Tell your child that all families are different, but all of them care for one another and share love.

ACTIVITY 3

LEARNING GOALS

By the end of the WEEK, your child/ren should be able to:

- Understand that different families share similarities but are different in many ways
- Identify things that make their family unique

RESOURCES

- Hat
- Radio/Music

VOCABULARY

- Family
- Unique

- Different
- Lie

- Begin the activity by singing the song in Activity 1.
- Now invite your family to play "Follow the leader."
 - Choose a leader and give them the hat. Explain to the family members that the person wearing the hat is the leader, and everyone must do what the leader does. The leader can be creative, dance, jump, or do whatever they want to, and everyone must copy what they do.
 - Now play some music and follow the leader!
 - Then, take turns and pass the hat on to the next person who wants to be the leader.
 - Play this until all family members have had a turn at being the leader, and have fun!
- After the game, recall the funniest actions and moments you shared.
- End the activity by discussing the following:
 - What do you enjoy doing the most together as a family?
- What would you like to do as a family activity that you don't usually do but would bring you all happy times together? (E.g., go on a family picnic, visit a museum together etc.).
- Remind your child that families are all different and unique, and all families have love.

ACTIVITY 4

LEARNING GOALS

By the end of the WEEK, your child/ren should be able to:

- Understand that families often share similarities but are different in many ways
- Identify things that make their family unique

RESOURCES

- Family Photos (copied)
- Glue/Tape/Scissors
- Recycled Card
- Old magazines

VOCABULARY

• Family

• Unique

Values

- Remind your child about the different families you have discussed in activities 1-3.
- Ask your child to tell you three words that they think describe their own family and why.
- Talk about what makes your family special and how your family is the same or different to the families in the neighbourhood you live in.
- Remind your child that families can be different, but they all have love.
- Tell your child that families have certain "rules" they believe in, called "family values." For example, one important value to your family is that it is important to tell the truth.
 - For example: "In our family, we don't lie to each other because it can hurt our feelings. We always tell the truth."
- Talk about what is important to your family and discuss other of your family values. For example, you may believe that everyone should be kind to each other and help each other. Talk about how you respect each other, for example, by knocking on a door before entering a room or using your good manners by saying please and thank you.
- Then, invite your child to make a collage of your family out of photocopies (if possible) of family photos. Otherwise, ask your child to add to the drawing they made in Activity 2 and extend it to show as many family members as possible.
- Display the collage in your home. Encourage your child to be creative with the design of the collage. Perhaps use images from magazines to add to the background.

ACTIVITY 5

LEARNING GOALS

By the end of the WEEK, your child/ren should be able to:

- Understand that families often share similarities but are different in many ways
- Identify things that make their family unique

RESOURCES

- Food
- Blanket

VOCABULARY

- Family
- Unique

- Picnic
- Tradition

- Invite all the family to come together. Then, to start the activity, sing the song from Activity 1.
- Talk about what different families you know like to do together. Do you like to do any of those things as a family? Talk about the activities that you like to do together.
- Discuss what a family "tradition" is. This can be something that you do and then plan to do again on a particular day each week, month, year, or at different times of the year. It is something special to your family, which you love to do again and again. It could involve religion, baking your favourite food, or volunteering and supporting the community.
- Then ask the family if they would like to go on a family picnic and involve your child in the food preparation on the day.
 - Choose an open space outdoors (if possible) and lay a blanket somewhere where you can sit together and eat the food you have prepared. You could play games together, or go for a walk. The idea is to spend meaningful, quality time with each other, doing something you all enjoy. This could be a new family tradition!
- Invite family members to sit together in a circle to end the activity. Then ask one
 person to start by turning to their right and telling the family member next to
 them one thing they love about them. When everyone has shared what they
 love about the person next to them, discuss the following:
 - What makes you feel loved?
 - What is your happiest memory as a family?
- Share your responses, and then give a big family hug to one another.

