

ALL IN THE FAMILY

There are all kinds of families: a fact that is good to keep in mind as you help your students shake the branches of their family trees to contemplate the roles, structures, traditions, rules, and sibling rivalries within.

by Lucia Kemp Henry

What It Is

What is a family anyway? Encourage students to tell about their families. Afterwards, ask students to recall the sizes, members, and customs of the families mentioned. Then sing the lyrics below to reinforce the idea that all families are unique.



(sung to the tune of
"Rock-a-Bye Baby")

Families are big,
And families are small.
Families give love,
And care to us all.

People in families
Work and play, too.
I live in a family,
And so do you!

Families are different.
None are the same.
Some families have
Special names.

Families have ways,
So special and fine.
You love your family.
I sure love mine!



Family Survey

Send each student home with a copy of the survey on page 7. When all the surveys are in, graph portions of the information as a group. Give each student a photocopied school photo of himself that has been mounted on a construction paper square. Then have each student place his photo marker by the correct graph heading. Encourage students to analyze and discuss what the graph reveals. Keep the survey forms for use with several of the activities that follow.

In My Family I Have...				
brother(s) only				
sister(s) only				
brothers and sisters				
I am an only				

Who Am I?

Help children learn their special roles in relation to other family members. For each student, reproduce the "Who Am I?" worksheet on page 8 and the word strips on page 9. Have students cut out the word strips. Referring to their completed surveys (page 7), have students glue appropriate role names to the space provided on "Who Am I?" Then have each student complete the worksheet picture to look like himself.

Who Am I?


My name is MARK

In my family, I am a ...

son

cousin

brother

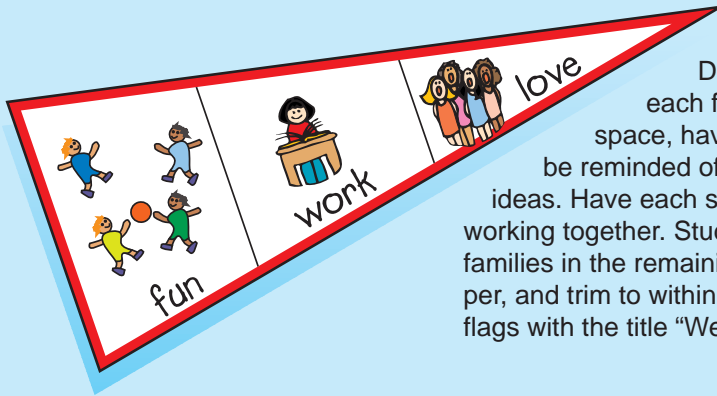


Color this child to look like you!

Family Flags

For each student, cut a flag shape from heavy white paper.

Draw lines dividing each flag into three sections. With pencil, label each flag section with the numeral one, two, or three. In the first space, have each student draw what his family does for fun. Students may be reminded of the information on the survey, if necessary, to trigger some ideas. Have each student complete the second space with a drawing of his family working together. Students finish the flags by drawing something they love about their families in the remaining space. Mount each flag on a large sheet of construction paper, and trim to within $\frac{3}{4}$ inch of the white paper. On a bulletin board, display these flags with the title "We Are Family."



I'm in a Special Spot

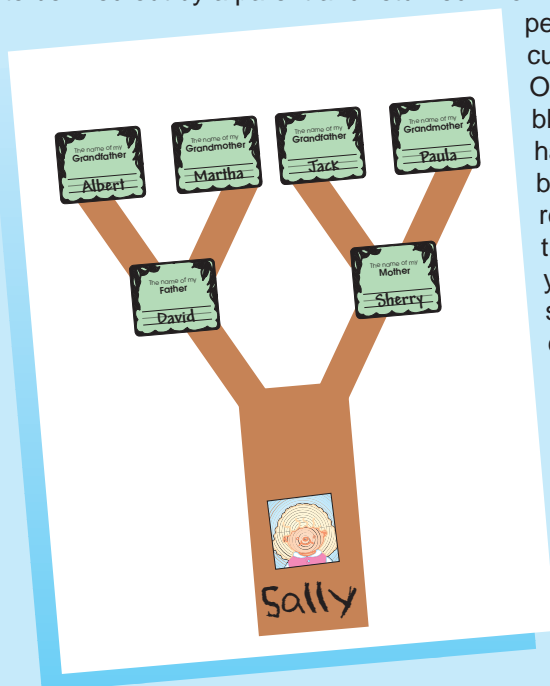
Have students focus on their birth order and their age in relation to their siblings. (Refer to the previously completed surveys, if necessary.) For only children, have them compare their ages to those of cousins or family friends. On chart paper, have each student draw himself with his siblings (or cousins/friends). Ask him to write or dictate a sentence describing one positive aspect of his birth order.



My Family Tree

Making a simple family tree is a good way for a youngster to examine his family structure. Begin by photocopying each student's school picture, and trim the copy into a circular shape. Duplicate the patterns on page 10 on light green paper. Send a copy home with each student to be filled out by a parent and returned. From the green pattern papers, have each student cut out the leaf clusters.

On a 12" x 18" sheet of blue construction paper, have each student glue a brown construction paper rectangle for the tree trunk. Then have each youngster glue on six smaller strips of brown construction paper, as shown, for the tree branches. Have the student glue his picture to the tree trunk and write his name before arranging and gluing the leaf clusters as shown.



We Are Alike

You must have inherited Dad's curly hair, and Sis got her long, lanky legs from Grandpa. Your youngsters have probably heard similar comments about the origins of their looks and their interests. Have each student choose a family member with whom he shares a physical characteristic or interest. Discuss the similarities and encourage him to illustrate them on story paper. Complement the illustrations by writing student explanations of the similarities.

