

Lesson: 3

Key messages:

- Becoming a parent is a special milestone.
- There are many ways of becoming a parent.
- Some people need the help of a doctor and a sperm, egg or embryo donor to become a parent.
- Some people need a surrogate to help them become a parent.

Sometimes people need help to make a baby

Purpose

- To teach students about assisted reproductive treatment (ART).
- To develop students' awareness and understanding of the role ART has in creating families.

Teaching Notes

Some students may not know they were conceived using ART or the identity of their egg or sperm donor. Others may not know they were adopted or born through surrogacy. It is therefore a sensitive area for some families to talk about. If students are unwilling to do the homework with a parent they can interview a teacher or other school staff member who nominates themselves to be a substitute.

Activity Details

Victorian Curriculum

Health & PE Explore strategies to manage physical, social and emotional change
VCHPEP089

Capabilities VCECD008

Time 45 minutes plus homework

Levels 3 & 4

Equipment

- homework booklet for each student
- *Sometimes it takes three to make a baby* by Kate Bourne (book available free at www.varta.org.au/resources)

Procedure

- Remind students of the previous activity on diverse families. Discuss what they have learnt.
- Read the book “Sometimes it takes three to make a baby”
- Discuss the key concepts in the book. The following questions can be used as a guide:
 - What made the man and woman sad?
 - Where did they go to get help?
 - What are the three things the doctor said they needed to make a baby?
 - Why couldn’t the couple have a baby?
 - How did they solve the problem?
 - Who helped them with the problem? How?
 - How did the couple feel when they had the baby?
 - How did the egg donor feel when the baby was born?
 - Does every couple want to have a baby?
- Link the issue of diversity in conception with diversity in families generally. The following questions can be used as a guide:
 - What would the couple have to do if there was a problem with the man’s sperm?
 - What would you call the person who provided the sperm?
 - What if the woman’s uterus couldn’t grow a baby or she doesn’t have a uterus? Who could help her?
 - Do you know the word for when a woman grows a baby for someone else?
- Conclude with a homework activity. Handout the homework booklet and read through the text with the class explaining what needs to be done.
- When students have completed the homework it can be returned and shared with the class.