

Lesson: 2

Key messages:

- Families are made up of people who love and care for each other. There are many different types of families.

Activity Details

Victorian Curriculum

Health & PE Investigate how emotional responses vary in family situations and in friendship groups
VCHPEP093

Capabilities VCPSCSO020

Time 45 minutes

Levels 3 & 4

Equipment

- selection of pictures of different people cut from magazines, the internet or clip art
- Bluetac
- Posters by Rainbow Families titled "Who is in your family", available at http://www.glhv.org.au/files/Poster_people.pdf

Family constellations - Who's in your family?

Purpose

To promote thinking and challenge values about what constitutes a family.

Teaching Notes

- This activity is a good way to introduce the topic of family. As some students may not live with their birth family, it is important to be inclusive.
- Students may have separated or blended families, live in two locations, live in foster care, be adopted or have same-sex parents. Their parents may also have needed the help of a donor or surrogate to create their family. It is good to acknowledge this diversity and constantly reiterate that families are different in composition.
- The title of the activity can be changed to suit students' living circumstances. Some options are; 'Important people in my life', 'The people I live with', 'People I care about and who care about me'.
- You may wish to refer to the explanations for Assisted Reproductive Treatment (ART) including donor treatment and surrogacy.

Procedure

- Ask the students to sit in one large circle. Spread out the pictures on a table or on the floor so that students will all be able to view the pictures. If this is not possible, hold up a few of the pictures so students can see what is on them.
- Ask a student to come out and select some of the pictures to make a family. As the student selects pictures they can explain to the rest of the class who each member of the family is. The student does not have to represent their own family.
- Display the family for the rest of the class to see (perhaps by sticking on the board using Bluetac). Draw a circle around the family to illustrate that they are a unit.
- Invite another student to make a different family, following the same process.
- Continue until a large variety of families have been represented.

- If students do not create a diverse range of families, you may need to add some. They could include same-sex-attracted couples, foster families, blended families etc.
- A class discussion could include the following questions:
 - Are all families the same?
 - Do families need to be related by blood?
 - What is the difference between a family friend and family relation?
 - Is one type of family any better than another?
 - Do all families have everything in common?
 - Do the families have some things in common?
- Ask students to come up with a list of characteristics a family might have. Write up the suggestions on the board.
- Refer to same-sex couple families. Ask students; is it possible for two women or two men to have a baby?
- Discuss ART in the context of diverse families (e.g. How could these two women have a baby etc.)? Include the distinction of choice and ability when it comes to having a baby.
- This activity could finish off with referring to the Rainbow Families posters titled “Who’s in your Family?”. These can be purchased and put up in the classroom or shown directly from the website onto the Smartboard to re-cap key learning.
- The activity can be finished off with students drawing a picture of their own family and labeling the members. These can be displayed around the room along with the posters.