

# Talking About Families

## Grade 3

### **About Talking About Families Class Meeting**

- These class meetings will expand students' knowledge regarding all types of family structures.
- The class meeting will also assist students in developing sensitivity to gay and lesbian family structures.
- Respect and tolerance for every type of family is important and expected.

### **Lesson Purpose**

- To develop vocabulary related to family diversity.
- To create a mobile that represents their own family
- To talk about their own families and to learn about other families
- To be able to describe different family structures in a respectful way

### **Materials**

Art supplies:  
Wire coat hangers  
Crayons, markers  
String, ribbon  
5 X 7 cards

### **Film**

"That's a Family" &  
the curriculum guide

### **Vocabulary Words**

Adoptive parents  
Adopted Children  
Birth Mother  
Birth Father  
Blended Family  
Divorced Family  
Mixed family  
Foster Parent  
Grand parent family  
Single parent family  
Step Parent family  
Guardian  
Two Moms  
Two Dads

### **Time Suggested**

Four – 30 minute  
segments.

## **The Lesson:**

1. Discuss with the students that they will be viewing the film "That's a Family" in which they may see a "mirror" of their own family. Or, like looking through a window, they get a glimpse of the many different types of loving family structures. They will learn that every family is unique, but viable and special.
  - a. Introduce the new vocabulary.  
Define and discuss.
2. **View the film, "That's a Family"**

### **3. Activity, Family Chart**

Handout to each child the "Family Chart"

- Ask students individually or in pairs to fill in the boxes about each family.
- Students may want to refer to the vocabulary introduced by the teacher, or that the words used to describe each family in the film.

Discuss

- Each family structure from the film
  - a. How are they different? The same?
  - b. What is sometimes hard for the children in the film?

#### **4. Activity ~ Creating Family Mobiles**

Share an example of a family mobile, or draw one on the board of a family from the video "That's a Family"

- Instruct students to create and assemble their own mobiles, decorating a card for each member of their family to string together for the family live. They can also make as many cards as they like for the places, things and ideas categories.
- Once cards are completed, hole punch each one and thread cards together in categories. Tie to coat hanger.

(Category prompts)

- People/animals in my family
- Places that are important to my family
- Things my family does together
- Ideas that represent my family

#### **5. Sharing Mobiles**

Ask individual students to share their mobiles and tell 3 things about their family, using the cards as prompts.

- Ask the following questions as appropriate:
  - What can we learn about families from our mobiles?
  - What types of family structures are included in our mobiles?
  - Are there any family structures missing? If so, what are they?

#### **Summarize the Discussion & Reflect on Families**

Acknowledge that we have learned about the different family structures that exist. Some families that we learned of may mirror your own, and others were a window for you to learn about and expand your knowledge of what a family may look like.

All types of families should be respected. What binds a family together is their love for each other and their common experiences. Remind students again that all family structures are equally viable and important.