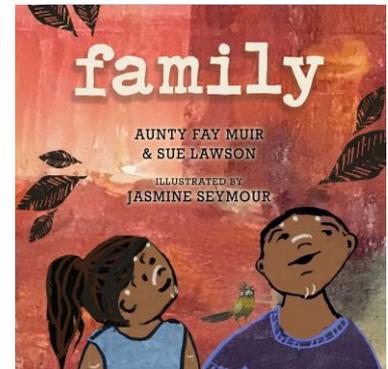


LEARNING TIME

Family

By Aunty Fay Muir and Sue Lawson

Illustrated by Jasmine Seymour



The latest book in the 'Our Place' series, Family is a beautifully illustrated look at the universal theme of family. The story introduces young readers to Indigenous culture and explores the fact that family can be many things; connection with country, spending time caring for each other and the environment and about heart and home.

The careful selection of each word means the text is powerful and the earthy tones in the illustrations portray the connection to country. This gorgeous book is the perfect way to celebrate family.

Key Message for Parents | The best learning happens in nurturing relationships.

Young children which are in loving and caring relationships with the people around them have healthy brain development and lower stress responses. Spending time taking, singing, reading and playing with your toddler helps to develop a warm and nurturing relationship.

Some ways we can foster strong relationships include:

- Providing a predictable and calm environment
- Be a role model by speaking to children in a respectful way
- Learning about the cultural background of children and families
- Be aware of any special needs the children or families in your group may have

Australian Early Years Learning Framework | Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

Educators can support children to develop a strong sense of wellbeing by

- Providing warm and trusting relationships
- Acknowledging each child's cultural and social identity
- Showing respect and giving positive affirmation
- Valuing each child's personal decision making

Welcome

Ask carers to write nametags for themselves and their children.

Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and that there will be time for adults to chat after the story and songs.

Welcome Song (or your preferred song)

Have the words available as a handout or written on a board or butcher's paper for the adults to read and join in.

Good Morning

Good morning to you

Good morning to you

Good morning everybody

and welcome to you!

Song

I love you family

Sing to the tune of "You are my sunshine"

I love you family

My dearest family

You make me happy, when I am sad

I want to tell you; I really love you

When I am with you, I am so glad



Before Reading

Settle your group into a comfortable area and make sure all children can see the book. Show the cover and explain the story you are sharing today is called 'Family'.

Discuss what is a family. You could write all the answers on a whiteboard as this will demonstrate that families are made up of all types of people and that each family is unique. There might be one person in your family or 10. They may be related to one another, but they don't have to be. The important thing is they love and care for you.

During Reading

To get the full impact of the story, always read the book all the way through without stopping to discuss. This helps children understand the flow of the story. Tell the children it is your job to read the words but it's their job to read the illustrations. Visual literacy is an important part of literacy development.

Once you have finished reading ask the children who enjoyed the story. Explain that you will read the story again but this time we will stop and look closely at each page so they can tell you what they saw in the illustrations, and answer any questions. When you are exploring each page look at;

- Who are the people?
- What are they doing?
- What else is happening in the illustrations?
- Count how many Australian animals there are.

After Reading

When you finish reading praise the children for sitting and listening. Acknowledging their effort, promotes positive self-esteem.

The families in the story are doing lots of different things together; playing footy, sharing stories, singing, dancing and looking after the environment.

Talk about what things the children do with their families. Are they the same or different to the families in the story?

Give the children a piece of blank paper and ask them to draw their family.

Extension Ideas

You can extend the ideas from the story by doing some of these extension activities

- Do some yarn weaving
- Ask your elders (grandparents or special seniors) to tell you about what life was like when they were younger
- Play a fishing game
- Draw some Australian Animals

Songs

You may like to sing songs:

- Inanay capuana (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3_Snv1C-54)
- If you're happy and you know it
- The Gumtree family (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RFQwM8WkUnE>)

STEM Focus

Young children have an innate tendency to explore. They are always looking and asking questions about the world around them. Go for a walk in nature and observe the animals and insects, count the trees and flowers. Depending on the season are there leaves on the ground? Or flowers? What colour are they? By encouraging children to explain what they are seeing you are helping their language development.

The natural world offers so many opportunities to explore STEM principles. Take a basket on your walk and collect leaves, flowers, pine cones, gum nuts, etc. When you return to the classroom/home sort the items you have collected. You could then draw the things you have found and make labels for each type of thing. This simple activity in collecting and sorting helps to introduce the scientific concept of classifying.

Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of books that parents might want to share with their children. The Little Big Book Club suggests the following books to support learning in this area. If your library has copies, make them available for families to borrow or include them in your story time session.

For more stories to share, we recommend the following titles:

- **Love makes a family** by *Sophie Barr*
- **Baby Business** by *Jasmine Seymour*
- **Family Forest** by *Kim Kane*

An Activity Time for this book is available to download for FREE from our website. This is a great resource to share with families, you are welcome to print and distribute as necessary.

Goodbye Song

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child's name in the place of 'you' as it develops a more personal relationship between yourself, the child and the family.

Sung to the tune of (Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush) or your preferred choice.

Goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye (use a waving action) Say goodbye, say goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye

To all our library friends (or) (to our friend.....)!