
Family by Anna Carey



A Grown-ups' Guide

Supporting guide for 'Family' A WADDL picture book



Ways to use the picture book

Under 3s

A colourful picture book to enjoy with babies and toddlers. an introduction to counting 1-10 but with the opportunity to add your own narrative as you turn the pages. Talk about what you see to encourage language development and early social skills.

Under 5s

An age-appropriate conversation starter for Pre-school and Key Stage One. Reinforcing numbers 1-10, as well as importantly encouraging inclusivity and acceptance of diversity in a simple way

Additional Needs

Accessible to children who find written word difficult to follow, this picture book can also be a useful tool in helping to start conversations with children who would otherwise disengage with a word book. Most helpful with children who perhaps wouldn't always follow a storyline or struggle with sequencing but enjoy the bright and unique visual representations of families.

Families

A collection of visual prompts that allow parents or carers to explore the concept of what 'family' means in a less intense way than a scripted story book might do. Applicable in this way (especially with use of this guide) to children of any age.

As A Gift

The Family picture book is a unique and thoughtful gift for any family or child. Specifically though, foster careers and adopters will benefit from this resource and easily adapt it to use with children of any age using this grown-ups guide.

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Quick Start: Read along

Talking about the pictures

The 'Family' picture book is intended to be enjoyed together with an adult. To get the most from this book, the child can be encouraged to think aloud about what they see on the page.

Helpful Questions to ask...

1) Developing language skills and freedom of opinion

- Who is who in this picture?
- What do you think that character is feeling?
- What might they be saying to each other?
- Which one would you choose to be in this family?
- Where do they live?
- Are they different to other families? Do you think this is good or bad?

2) Developing an emotional and social vocabulary

- What is the best thing about your own family?
- Can you find some families at home? (this may be in the form of a collection of toys, some time to make their own drawings or perhaps some space for imaginary play)
- What story can you tell me about the family you have found? (encourage conversation about how the family was formed and what makes them a family, see 'Key Concepts')
- Do you know some real-life families that are different to yours?

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Key Concepts

Explaining Family Diversity

What makes a family?

The book is specifically aimed at increasing acceptance and tolerance of non-conventional families. Social conditioning often accelerates children's prejudices. How can we as adults, help children preserve the naturally inquisitive but crucially tolerant attitudes to difference that they seem to be born with?



By the time children start going to nursery or pre-school settings we see them being influenced by a vast range of opinions and stereotypes through play, conversations, stories, music and their physical environment.

In considering what makes a family more than a group of friends or a formal care arrangement of some kind, children very often have a wonderfully inclusive and wide definition of the term family themselves. Importantly, as they grow up, influences from adults and peers begin to shape their understanding of words like 'Family' and the language that accompanies it (love, home, parent...etc) as well as the expectation of each role within it. We know that young children are much better at accepting people (or families) for who they are than some adults. However, at an older age they often need help to remember that these naturally tolerant and accepting attitudes they started life with are good, great in fact!

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Adoptive and Foster Families

Acknowledging difference, promoting inclusivity.



Whilst the 'Family' picture book can be used by a vast range of audiences, the WADDL website and resources are specifically designed to capture the attention of children with a present or past experience of the social care system.

All of the pictures in the book are specifically engineered so that they can be interpreted as a foster family, a temporary arrangement or a forever family.

It is important that the child is allowed space to offer their own opinion of what they see, and in doing so they may well offer an insight into what they are feeling about their own situation, thus giving the book a therapeutic use.

1) Questions to develop a sense of acceptable self-identity;

- Who may be part of this family but not in the picture?
- How do you think this family came together?
- Does anyone look like they are from a different family in this picture? Does it matter that they are not the same?

2) Questions that help develop an emotional vocabulary;

- What do you think this family feel about being different to the others? How would you feel in this family?
- Do you think this family is a 'forever family'? (sensitive use of this question is of course crucial but can give a very helpful insight into the child's anxieties or confidence in prospective or recent adoption)
- Which family was your favourite? Which looks the safest? Which is the most fun?
- What would you say to this family if you could talk to them? What would they say to you?

If you found the grown-ups guide helpful, visit waddl.co.uk for more information on similar resources, guides and free downloads. Supplement your own collection of resources to start some more fun, creative and emotionally healthy conversations.