

Name:

Different kinds of families

What are some words you would expect to see in a book about different kinds of families?

Circle words or phrases that work for talking about families.

Put an **X** through words that don't fit with talking about families.

Put a question mark **?** next to words you don't know.

cousin ~~president~~ stepsisters

youngest nontraditional

brother-in-law great-grandfather

birth parent coach adopt

group home foster mother

sibling principal

What makes a family?

Read each story. Then decide if the story describes a family.



My Aunt and Me

For as long as I can remember, it's been just my aunt and me. She tries to leave a note or a snack when I get home from school. If I get sick, she brings me cups of tea. When I was younger, she did my laundry and helped pick out my clothes. We still have fun shopping together and talking about styles. I like to cook myself now, but my aunt's cooking is the best in the world. She makes me my favorite dish: chicken with tomatoes and peppers.



With a partner, consider whether *My Aunt and Me* describes a family:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family members can trust each other. | <input type="checkbox"/> Families take care of basic needs. | <input type="checkbox"/> Families do kind things for each other. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Families work to earn money for everyone. | <input type="checkbox"/> Families celebrate holidays together. | <input type="checkbox"/> Families accept each other. |

→ Our decision (*choose one*):

These people do do not might make a family.



Teammates

There is nobody I trust as much as my teammates. We've played together so much that we can finish each other's sentences. I play goalie for our team. When I am in the box, I know the other players are there for me. They have my back and they won't let the other team mess with me. When I send the ball down the field, my teammates know my plan. I don't have to yell much. They just understand. My teammates are who I spend time with off the field, too. We are almost like sisters.



With a partner, consider whether *Teammates* describes a family:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family members can trust each other. | <input type="checkbox"/> Families take care of basic needs. | <input type="checkbox"/> Families do kind things for each other. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Families work to earn money for everyone. | <input type="checkbox"/> Families celebrate holidays together. | <input type="checkbox"/> Families accept each other. |

→ Our decision (*choose one*):

These people do do not might make a family.

What makes a family?, continued



Foster Care

I live with my foster parents, Joe and Mindy. I have my own room at their house and they bought me new clothes. There is always plenty of food at meals and I can get a snack from the kitchen any time. There are two other boys in the house who are also foster children. I call them my brothers and we get along okay. When we want to do something like go to the movies, Joe and Mindy will pay for us. I miss my mom all the time but this is my home now.



With a partner, consider whether *Foster Care* describes a family:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family members can trust each other. | <input type="checkbox"/> Families take care of basic needs. | <input type="checkbox"/> Families do kind things for each other. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Families work to earn money for everyone. | <input type="checkbox"/> Families celebrate holidays together. | <input type="checkbox"/> Families accept each other. |

→ *Our decision (choose one):*

These people do do not might make a family.



Christmas is Special

I don't see my whole family that much but Christmas time is special for us. I am the youngest of five and all the others are grown up and on their own. I live with my dad and it is usually just the two of us. My dad works long hours and I am home on my own a lot. It can get a little lonely. Christmas is different. My older brother and sisters come home and bring their kids, too. Our house is full of people and we tell stories and laugh. We have fun just being together.



With a partner, consider whether *Christmas is Special* describes a family:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family members can trust each other. | <input type="checkbox"/> Families take care of basic needs. | <input type="checkbox"/> Families do kind things for each other. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Families work to earn money for everyone. | <input type="checkbox"/> Families celebrate holidays together. | <input type="checkbox"/> Families accept each other. |

→ *Our decision (choose one):*

These people do do not might make a family.

What makes a family?, continued



Two Jobs

My mom works all the time. Since I started school, she has always worked at least two jobs. At six o'clock, she leaves for her first job. I help out in the morning by making my little sister breakfast. I also get her dressed and walk her to school. After school, I come home and heat up dinner for my sister and me. My mother gets home at eight. Our neighbor, Mrs. James, is next door if we need help. My mother says she knows it is hard some days. With her working so much, we don't spend as much time together. But the jobs pay for things we need. Now that I'm older, I would like to get a babysitting job on weekends to help out.



With a partner, consider whether *Two Jobs* describes a family:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family members can trust each other. | <input type="checkbox"/> Families take care of basic needs. | <input type="checkbox"/> Families do kind things for each other. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Families work to earn money for everyone. | <input type="checkbox"/> Families celebrate holidays together. | <input type="checkbox"/> Families accept each other. |

→ *Our decision (choose one):*

These people do do not might make a family.



Issues

My little brother has issues. He does things that embarrass me all the time. He will talk in a loud voice when we are out. Sometimes he yells. My parents spend more time with him than with me. That bothers me, too. But my brother and I like playing cards together. He's really good at number games. He can also be really funny. People will say rude things about him. That gets me mad. They don't really know him.



With a partner, consider whether *Issues* describes a family:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family members can trust each other. | <input type="checkbox"/> Families take care of basic needs. | <input type="checkbox"/> Families do kind things for each other. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Families work to earn money for everyone. | <input type="checkbox"/> Families celebrate holidays together. | <input type="checkbox"/> Families accept each other. |

→ *Our decision (choose one):*

These people do do not might make a family.