

Year 3 Term 4  
**What are families like?**

PSHE



**National Curriculum Links:**

Families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security and stability.  
 The characteristics of healthy family life: commitment to each other, including in times of difficulty, protection and care for children and other family members, the importance of spending time together and sharing each other's lives  
 Others' families, either in school or in the wider world, sometimes look different from their family, but that they should respect those differences and know that other children's families are also characterised by love and care.  
 Stable, caring relationships, which may be of different types, are at the heart of happy families, and are important for children's security as they grow up.

**Essential Prior Learning:**

Family is one of the groups they belong to as well as, for example, school, friends, clubs.  
 Families can be made up of different people.  
 Name some of the things their family members, or people that are special to them, do to make them feel loved and cared for.  
 Know that it is important to tell someone (such as their teacher) if something about their family makes them feel unhappy or worried.

**Progression in Skill:**

How families differ from each other (including that not every family has the same family structure, e.g. single parents, same-sex parents, blended families, foster and adoptive parents)  
 How common features of positive family life often include shared experiences, e.g. celebrations, special days or holidays  
 How people within families should care for each other and the different ways they demonstrate this  
 How to ask for help or advice if family relationships are making them feel unhappy, worried or unsafe

**Long-term Memory Knowledge:**

Families are not all the same, and that's completely normal; what matters most is that family members care for and support each other.  
 Families have special moments they share, e.g. birthday parties, religious festivals, or fun trips during holidays; these shared experiences help families feel connected and happy.  
 People in a family show care in many ways, e.g. by helping, listening, being patient, comforting, showing kindness, etc.  
 If family life makes you feel sad, worried, scared, or unsafe, it's important to tell a trusted adult, such as someone at school.  
 Talking to someone can help keep you safe and make things better.

**Key Vocabulary**

<b>family structure</b>	the way a family is made up, e.g. who is a part of the family and who lives with who
<b>single parent</b>	a family with one parent who looks after the children
<b>same-sex parents</b>	a family with two mums or two dads
<b>blended family</b>	a family where parents may have children from earlier relationships; sometimes called step-parents and step-siblings

<b>foster family</b>	a family that takes care of children who cannot live with their birth parents for a time
<b>adoptive family</b>	a family that has chosen to take a child into their home permanently
<b>celebrations</b>	special times like birthdays, parties, or festivals
<b>trusted adult</b>	someone you feel safe with, like a teacher, parent, carer, or family friend

**Progression in Resources:**

role-play  
 circle time discussions  
 scenario cards  
 images and animations

**Relevance**

<b>Now</b>	Children understand and respect that families don't all look the same and that many types of families exist; they know what a safe and healthy family should look like and know who to speak to if they worry theirs is not.
<b>Future</b>	They will feel more confident, respectful, and accepting of others whose families are different from their own; they recognise what safe and fulfilling family relationships look like and build these for themselves.
<b>Aspiration</b>	Children to grow into adults who value diversity, avoid stereotypes, and build inclusive, supportive communities; they consider fostering or adoption to support those who haven't had the easiest family life or considering a career in social services or counselling.