

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILIES

BC ELF 2019-2020

Families are their children's first teachers. They are knowledge keepers and respected teachers of culture, heritage, language and values. The Early Learning Framework honours what families do to nurture their children's growth and development in their home environment.

Families support their children when they live and learn together by these four elements that are the foundation of the Early Learning Framework (*BC ELF: A Guide For Families, p.3*).

1. **Nurturing a sense of well-being and belonging** to help their children learn about the world around them.

2. **Provide opportunities to engage with other children, adults, and materials** in their homes, environments, and communities.

3. **Create opportunities to communicate their ideas**; participate in relationships with others through sounds, gestures, and expressive languages. This includes moving, dancing, constructing, playing, drama, art, mathematics, science, music, and storytelling.

4. **Nurturing a positive sense of self-worth, self-awareness, and identity** so children become confident individuals who contribute to their own well-being, and to the well-being of their family, community, and society.

GAYBY BABY SCHOOL ACTION TOOLKIT

THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO MAKE A FAMILY

CO-PARENTS

With a global rise in the demographic of children with non-traditional families, it's time to celebrate the diversity of the modern family unit. At Gayby Baby, we think that every child has the right to see their family reflected in their education.

TWO MUMS

International research says that it is the quality of parenting that determines a child's wellbeing, not the structure of their family or the sexuality or gender of their parents or carers.¹

MUM + DAD

ONE MUM

FOSTER FAMILY

The GAYBY BABY School Action Toolkit is the first comprehensive education resource to represent same-sex parented families and explore family diversity, providing educators with the tools to support students from all kinds of families.

ONE DAD

STEP-FAMILIES

TWO DADS

KINSHIP FAMILY

Download the free School Action Toolkit today at: www.thegaybyproject.com/schools

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ACTIVITIES

Let's Play! Activities for Families 2019: I am Thankful (p.27)

This experience provides an opportunity for children to share their gratitude with others.



Create an environment to share experiences: Bring out an album of family pictures or draw a picture of your family. Tell your child about someone you love, and share an experience you treasured with that person. Talk about how thankful you are for having that person in your life; how much fun you have spending time with them; sharing, playing, and eating with them. How does that person make your heart feel?



Guide your child to take 3 slow breaths, in and out and feel thankful. This encourages them to be mindful and reflect on their experiences.

Through this experience, children will learn to:

1. Reflect on themselves and how they feel
2. Communicate thoughts and experiences using different forms of expressions
3. Be curious about vocabulary, concepts, and written language
4. Express their point of view and reflect on others' views (*Let's Play! Activities for Families 2019, p. 27*)



Read books about being thankful and having gratitude with your child. Revisit the communication and expression of feelings shared about family love.

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BOOKS

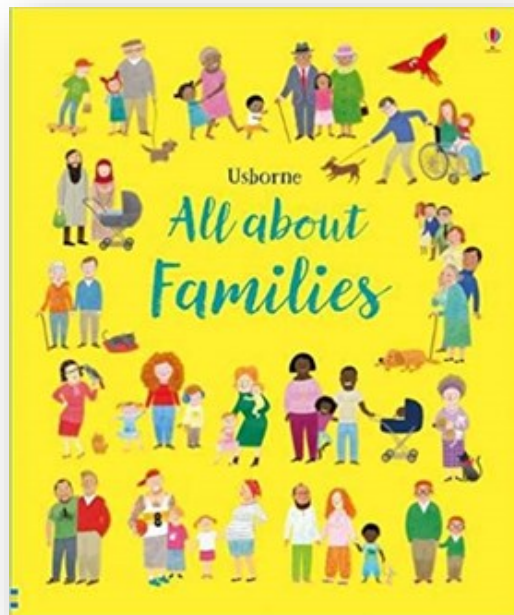


Orca Chief

by Roy Henry Vickers & Robert Budd

Listen to the story here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CV-vl7iFAIY>



All About Families

by Usborne

Click here to see the book:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qr75Vyg96ls>



My Family, Your Family

by Lisa Bullard

Makayla is visiting friends in her neighborhood. She sees how each family is different. How is her own family like the others? What makes each one great?

Click here to listen to the story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EtLfp7P4e6Q>

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SONGS

We are all a Family:

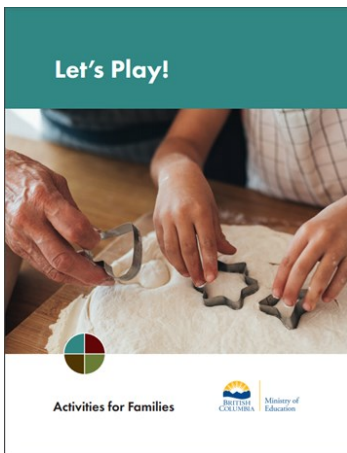
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ii_LtHrEiao

It's all Family:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Emk-L45w2YE>

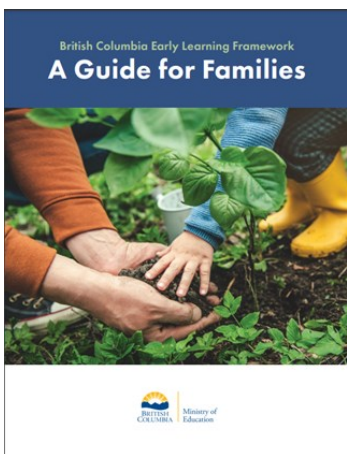


REFERENCES



BC Ministry of Education (2019), *Let's Play! Activities for Families*

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/early-learning/teach/earlylearning/lets-play-activities-for-families.pdf>



BC Ministry of Education (2020), *British Columbia Early Learning Framework: A Guide for Families*

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/early-learning/teach/earlylearning/elf-a-guide-for-families.pdf>

We respectfully acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the unceded, traditional, and ancestral territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the x^wməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.



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