

My Family Loves Me



PDMU STRAND:

Mutual Understanding in the Local and Wider Community

Chatting:

Chat with the children about things they like to do with their families – watching TV, going for walks, eating meals together, etc.

- Invite them to draw a picture of the thing they like doing best with their families and to explain it to the child beside them.
- The pictures can be displayed on the wall afterwards.

Story: It's Not Fair

Claire and Róisín were watching TV together one afternoon. When the programme was over Róisín said, 'I want to watch a cartoon now.' Claire grabbed the remote control from Róisín's hand and started to flick through the channels. Róisín got really mad and shouted, 'Give that remote control to me!' But Claire just pulled her hair and kept

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flicking through the channels. Then Róisín lost her temper and shouted, 'You're so mean!' Just as she was about to push her sister, their mum walked into the room.

'Róisín Byrne! Go to your room this minute! You are not allowed to hurt anyone in this house.' 'But Mum ...' Róisín began, 'She...' But Mum spoke even louder. 'Go to your room THIS MINUTE.' Róisín walked out of the room and as she walked through the door she could see her mother hugging Claire and saying, 'Are you alright? You poor thing.'

Róisín went upstairs and lay on her bed with tears in her eyes. She loved her sister but sometimes she made her mad. It was just so unfair. Claire had started it. Why didn't Mum listen?

After a while Mum came upstairs and sat on Róisín's bed. 'Have you anything to say for yourself, young lady?' she asked with a cross face. 'Yes I do,' said Róisín, 'And will you please listen this time?' 'Go ahead then,' said Mum. Róisín explained that it was actually Claire who had started the trouble. She told Mum that Claire had pulled her hair and grabbed the remote control. 'I know I shouldn't push her,' she said, 'but it really wasn't my fault.' She began to cry again.

Mum moved over beside Róisín and hugged her. 'I'm sorry I didn't listen,' she said, 'You know you shouldn't push, but I didn't realise there were two sides to the story. I'm going down to talk to your sister now. Later on, you can both apologise to each other and we'll forget about the whole thing.'

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Mum went back downstairs and she could hear her speaking crossly to Claire. Then she heard Claire stamping up the stairs to her room. 'Thanks Sis!' Claire called through the bedroom door. 'Claire!' Mum shouted. Later on Mum sat with the two girls and said 'Now girls, I think we all learned a few valuable lessons today. I certainly did. I will listen to the two sides of a story before I make any decisions, and I hope you two can learn to sort things out in a calm way. Now would anyone like a slice of chocolate cake?' The two girls laughed and before long they were all smiling through chocolatey teeth at each other.

Art

Invite the children to draw a picture of their favourite activity they like to do with their family.

Reflection:

Invite the children to close their eyes and sit really still with their feet on the floor. Then read the following:

Think of the people you live with. One by one, think of each member of your family. Think of how much you love them and how much they love you. Think of all that your family do for you: bringing you places, spending time with you, all the nice food you've shared together. Remember your aunts and uncles and grandparents too.

Families have good days and bad days. You might argue with your brothers and sisters. Sometimes you might be in a bad mood. But families forgive each other and try again and again and they never stop loving one another.

We thank God for our wonderful families and ask God to help us to be kind and loving to each other. Amen.