Today’s Families

Slide 1
Presentation Notes
Today’s Families
What is a family?

Ask this question, and assign a scribe to write the responses on the board.
What do family members do for each other? They support each other, learn from each other, love each other and grow together.
Discuss that a family of origin consists of your parents, step-parents, sibling and step-siblings. Your family of procreation is the one that you create.

Family can be formed by:
• Origin - family from which you are born into
• Procreation - family in which you will have children
Types of Families

- Adoptive
- Blended/Step
- Couple/Childless (no children)
- Extended
- Foster
- Nuclear
- Single Adult
- Single Parent
What are some pros and cons of an adoptive family?

Problems: Parents have challenges when child arrives, great adjustment for older child because of past memories, current fears and insecurities
Strengths: Offers love and stability to family-less child, brings love and satisfaction to childless family
Blended/Step Family

Husband, wife and at least one child from previous relationship
- Creates new family roles

This family structure has the most hurdles to overcome. With the blending of two families and many different personalities, the transition to normalcy may be difficult.

What are some pros and cons of a blended/step family?

Problems: Many adjustments, extra effort to blend different personalities, takes time to develop relationships
Strengths: Learn how to relate to different personalities, solve problems, advantage of two-parent family, more resources
Couples Without Children

Married adults who have no children because:

- they are unable to conceive
- they simply do not want children
- Husband and wife can be extremely career-minded

What are the pros and cons of couples not having children?
Modified extended family – Relatives live NEAR each other and interact frequently.

What are the pros and cons of an extended family?

Problems: too many irons in the fire
Strengths: extended family members are an important resource, family members learn respect, strong family ties, elders have a respected position in the family hierarchy
Fostering a child is a huge consideration for the foster parents.

What are some pros and cons of a foster family?

Problems: Parents could get difficult kids, parents and kids form attachments that have to be broken
Strengths: Offers love and stability to a child in transition
You may want to use this opportunity to give an example of a nuclear family. Think of a popular television show that the students can relate to.

What are the pros and cons of a nuclear family?

Problems: Parents taking sides, picking favorites, family members not getting enough attention
Strengths: Rewards of parenting, strong bonds, another adult to share good and bad times, children learn about both parental roles
Single Adult Family

- Household consisting of one adult
- Adult family status is single, meaning he or she has no partner or children

What are the pros and cons of this type of family?
This family structure is growing because of the divorce rate in our country.

What are the pros and cons of a single parent family?

Problems: Less time to devote, less income, all responsibilities on one parent, parent feels overwhelmed, fewer resources for children

Strengths: Rewards of parenting, extended family can help, children learn responsibility and independence at a younger age
Family Life and Structure
Description of types of families.
http://youtu.be/inaflc2M90o
Discuss with your students what physical needs are, such as food, shelter and clothing. There could possibly be more physical needs if you have a family member with special needs, such as one who is wheelchair bound.
Making memories is one way to support emotional needs. Another is simply being supportive during life trials.
Families take on many forms and shapes, and yet they perform some of the same basic functions from culture to culture. Individuals within the family provide the following:

- Basic needs (such as food, clothing, and shelter)
- Economic support
- Education
- Love and affection
- Nurturance
- Opportunities to have fun
- Protection
- Religious background

Each individual in the family has certain roles. Your role as a son, daughter, sister, brother, niece, nephew, aunt or uncle is a given role that you acquired when you were born into the family. When you marry, you will assume a chosen role as husband or wife. Roles are defined by age and responsibilities. Parents are usually responsible for providing food and shelter. As children get older and enter the workforce, these responsibilities might fall partly on their shoulders. In relationships, it is important to communicate the roles you will be sharing or expected to fulfill to meet the needs of the family.
Jean Piaget, Lawrence Kohlberg, and even William Shakespeare have written about the developmental stages individuals pass through as their lives move from birth to death. In 1973, Jay Haley identified a model of similar stages for families. Each of Haley’s six stages involves different emotional and physical processes and in turn influence family responsibilities.

The stages of the Family Life Cycle can be described as:
- Leaving home
- Getting married or committing to a couple relationship
- Parenting the first child
- Living with an adolescent
- Launching the children
- Retirement and older adulthood

The stages do not occur in exactly the same way in all families. Some families can be in two stages at one time. For example, the same family could be living with an adolescent and launching an older child. Remember the family life stages are fluid, without rigid boundaries, and that they can encompass the emotional, intellectual, physical and spiritual aspects of life.
Conduct a discussion about how each item listed can influence the dynamics of a family.

Crisis events which affect family members:

- abuse
- alcohol or other drug use
- an affair
- death
- divorce
- family violence
- homelessness
- mental health difficulties
- poverty
- trauma
- unemployment

How do family values, beliefs, culture and ethnicity influence the family dynamics?

How does the nature of attachments in a family, such as being secure or insecure, influence the overall family dynamics?

How do the dynamics of previous generations (parents’ and grandparents’ families) influence the family dynamics?
Families of All Kinds
Compare how families are different and alike.
http://youtu.be/POofYM4ZiKg
Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs – Abram Maslow, a scientist, created a pyramid diagram to show the way in which human needs are met.
These lists involve doing things for others to help alleviate stress.
Organizing tasks and responsibilities can help you manage your individual and family resources such as finances, food, clothing, shelter, health care, recreation, transportation, time and human capital.
Effective Methods For Managing Family Roles

- Be supportive and accepting of all family members
- Have a positive attitude
- Learn to compromise and practice conflict resolution
- Practice good communication skills
- Forgive one another

Why would families who hold weekly family meetings demonstrate stronger communication skills in stressful situations?
Ask: What are some ways that families spend time together? Examples include family dinners, watching football or playing games.
Family traditions allow us to find our purpose and fulfill our goals by:

- Anticipating
- Participating
- Reflecting
Discuss school traditions, such as college traditions that bring alumni and current students together. Also give examples of religious, cultural and family traditions.
Family Traditions

- Build memories and define us as a family
- Preserve our heritage and culture
- Provide consistency
- Teach members the value of family
- Unify and create bonds
Questions?
References and Resources

Images:
Microsoft Clip Art: Used with permission from Microsoft.

Textbooks:

Websites:
Becoming a Stepparent
Becoming a parent by blending families or marrying someone with kids can be a rewarding and fulfilling experience.
http://kidshealth.org/parent/positive/family/stepparent.html#cat168
References and Resources

Nine Steps to More Effective Parenting
Here are nine child-rearing tips that can help you feel more fulfilled as a parent — and enjoy your kids more, too.
http://kidshealth.org/parent/positive/family/nine_steps.html

YouTube™:
Families of All Kinds
Compare how families are different and alike.
http://youtu.be/P0cfYm4EKg

Family Life and Structure
Description of types of families.
http://youtu.be/natic2MR0a