Today’s Families
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What is a family?
Family

People living in the same household who are related by blood, marriage or adoption
Families

- Also include other people who do not live within the same household
- Can be formed by:
  - Origin
  - Procreation
Types of Families

- Adoptive
- Blended/Step
- Couple/Childless (no children)
- Extended
- Foster
- Nuclear
- Single Adult
- Single Parent
Adoptive Family

Children NOT biologically linked to parents

- Parents have gone through a legal process to make children part of their family
Blended/Step Family

Husband, wife and at least one child from previous relationship

- Creates new family roles
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
Extended Family

- Includes relatives other than nuclear
- Several generations of one family live together
- More common in other countries
- Could be a temporary arrangement
Foster Family

- Parents care for children on a temporary basis (children waiting for adoption or needing a place to stay while problems/issues are being resolved)

- Foster parents are licensed by the state, screened by social services, receive training and a small amount of money
Nuclear Family

- Two parents and biological or adopted children
- Shared responsibilities
- Most accepted family structure in our society
Single Adult Family

- Household consisting of one adult

- Adult family status is single, meaning he or she has no partner or children
Single Parent Family

- Rapidly growing structure in our society
- One parent and child(ren)
Family Structures

Family Life and Structure
(click on link)
Functions of a Family

- To meet physical needs
- To raise autonomous children who eventually leave home
Functions of the Family

- To adapt to change and provide family experiences of bonding
- To maintain the sanity of the adults while promoting growth in children
Roles And Responsibilities Of Family Members

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
Factors That Influence Family Responsibilities

Each of Haley’s six stages involves different emotional and physical processes and in turn influence family responsibilities.

- 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
Influences on Family Dynamics

- Crisis in the family
- Dynamics of previous generations
- Family values
- Level and type of influence from extended family or others
- Nature of attachments
- Nature of the household “mix”
- Special needs or chronically sick child and/or adult
Compare Different Families

Families are Different and Alike
(click on link)
Benefits of a Family

Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs

- Provides for physical needs (food, shelter, clothing, protection and security)
- Satisfies one’s emotional needs (encouragement, support, belonging, companionship, love, self-esteem and self-actualization)
Meeting Needs

Financially
- Do chores without allowance
- Restrain from asking for extra things
- Take a part-time job

Physically
- Complete chores
- Cook
- Help around the house

Other
- Pick up the responsibilities wherever needed
Managing Your Money

- Determine your needs and wants
- Establish your priorities
- Become your own personal “accountant”
- Keep accurate and current records of money
- Use a systematic process
- Use a decision-making process to help you take the best financial approach
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
Family Ties

Families are strengthened …

- by spending time together
- by showing respect to each other
- by sharing innermost thoughts and feelings
- by trusting each other
- with traditions
Traditions

Family traditions allow us to find our purpose and fulfill our goals by:

- Anticipating
- Participating
- Reflecting
Types of Traditions

- Cultural
- Family
- Religious
- School
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?
Images:
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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
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?tracking=P_RelatedArticle#

YouTube™:
Families of All Kinds
Compare how families are different and alike.
http://youtu.be/POofYM4ZiKg

Family Life and Structure
Description of types of families.
http://youtu.be/inaflc2M90o