

# Family and friends

## Topic

Family and friends, descriptions of people

## Aims

- To help learners talk about family and friends
- To develop learners' listening, speaking and writing skills

## Age

Primary (7–11 years)

## Time

60-90 minutes

## Materials

1. Word game: 'Family'  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/word-games/family>
2. Song, activity sheet, answers and lyrics: 'Tooth family'  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/songs/tooth-family>
3. Game: 'Face Match'  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/games/face-match>
4. Story, activity sheet, answers and transcript: 'My dad'  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/short-stories/my-dad>
5. Flashcards  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/flashcards/family-flashcards>
6. Your turns: 'Family' and 'Best friends'  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/your-turn/family>  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/your-turn/best-friends>
7. Worksheets: 'Family' and 'Friends'  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/worksheets/family>  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/worksheets/friends>

For a complete list of all 'Family' and 'Friends' content on LearnEnglish Kids, click here:

<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/category/topics/family>  
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/category/topics/friends>

## Introduction

Children practise language for family and friends with online games, a song and a story. They speak in pairs, make posters and write about their family or friends.

**Procedure**

<b>1. Vocabulary (5–10 mins)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play the 'Family' word game. Divide the class into teams to play. Did they get them all right? Now ask learners to listen and repeat as you say the words.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Song (10–15 mins)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Display the initial 'Tooth family' song image and ask the children to identify the family members that they can see. Play the song and ask the learners to stand up each time they hear a family member word. Play the song again and encourage children to sing along. You could also make up actions for the song as you sing – ask the children for suggestions.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Listening (10 mins)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play the 'Face Match' game. This game asks children to listen to or read descriptions of people and match them to the correct picture. Use the 'text off' version to focus on listening skills. Play the game in teams and give points for correct answers.</li> </ul>
<b>4. Speaking (10–15 mins)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Display the pictures in the 'Face Match' game. Describe one of the people. Can the class choose the right person? Ask a volunteer to describe a person and the learners put up their hands to point to the correct person. Drill 'She's got long/short/dark/etc. hair', 'She's wearing a hat, glasses', etc. In pairs learners take turns to describe people from the game.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Posters (10–15 mins)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children make mini posters. Do an example first on the board. Draw a face and ask learners to tell you what to write. Feed in corrections as necessary. Now the children can draw a face and write a simple description.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Story (15 mins)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask the children to look at the title of the 'My dad' story and the initial image. Can they guess what the story's about? Play the story and ask the learners to tell you if their guesses were correct. What else can they remember about the story? Hand out the worksheet. Can the learners do exercise 1? Play the story again for learners to check answers. Learners work through exercises 2, 3 and 4.</li> <li>• Early finishers could play a game of Pelmanism with a set of the 'Family' flashcards.</li> </ul>
<b>7. Homework</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children can write about either their family or a friend with the 'Family' or 'Best friends' Your turns and post a comment on the site.</li> <li>• Alternatively you could give them either the 'Family' or 'Friends' worksheet to complete.</li> </ul>

**Contributed by**

Sally Trowbridge