

FAMILY is where I BELONG

Flipbook No. 1

October 2024



"Introduction to Families and Alternative Care"

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Introduction

In this flipbook, children will come across many different forms of families. Some are big, some are small. Some have many kids, and some have just one. You might see families with a mom and a dad, two moms, two dads, or just single parent. Some kids live with their grandparents or with foster families who care for them.

But guess what? No matter what a family looks like, they all have one thing in common – **Love!**



Remember, there's no such thing as a "Perfect" family. Every family is unique and special in its own way. Are you excited to start our journey? Let's go explore the wonderful world of families and care.

Definition of Family

A family is a social unit consisting of people related by blood, marriage, adoption, or strong emotional bonds. In the Indian context, family often extends beyond the nuclear unit to include multiple generations and extended relatives.

Example: Families in India can range from small nuclear units to large joint families, and may include various care arrangements. Families also include pets and other living beings.



Different Forms of Families

Nuclear Family

A small family unit consisting of parents and their children.

Joint Family

Multiple generations living together, often including grandparents, parents, and children.

Extended Family

Similar to joint family, but may include aunts, uncles, and cousins.



Same-Sex Parents Families

Some families have two moms or two dads instead of a mom and a dad. These are called same-sex parent families.

Single-Parent Family

A family with children headed by one parent due to various circumstances.

Dysfunctional Family

A family where people often don't get along or care for each other. There may be a lot of fighting, or someone might use hurtful words. Sometimes, there can be serious problems like a parent or family member using drugs or alcohol, or even showing violence. Children might witness or experience harmful things that make them feel scared or unsafe.



Different Forms of Care

Foster Care

A family temporarily caring for a child while their parents are unable to do so.

Foster parents are special people who open their homes to children who need a temporary place to stay. They provide love, care, and support until the child can return to their birth family or find a permanent home. Foster care can last for a few days, months, or even years.



Kinship Care

Kinship care is when a child lives with a relative or close family friend. It could be a grandparent, aunt, uncle, or even an older sibling. This helps children stay connected to their family and culture. child feels at home when surrounded by familiar faces and traditions.

Adoption

Adoption is when adults legally become a child's new parents. The child becomes a permanent part of their new family. Adopted children have all the same rights as biological children.



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Institutional Care

Institutional care are places where several children live together with trained staff who care for them. It's like a big family. Children in institutional homes go to school, have guidelines to follow, and learn important life skills.

Open Shelters

These provide temporary shelter, food, clothing, and basic services to children living on the streets or other vulnerable children.

Observation Homes

A place where children who are accused of breaking the law are taken for care and support while their case is being looked into. The government or special organizations run these homes to provide temporary shelter, safety, and guidance.

Special Home

Is a place where children who have broken the law are sent for rehabilitation. These homes are run by the government or non-government organizations and help children learn and grow in a better way. Special Homes offer care, education, and guidance so children can reintegrate into society.

Integrated Rehabilitation Centre

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Is a specialized facility dedicated to supporting children experiencing mental health challenges, behavioral issues, or substance dependencies. This therapeutic environment is staffed by trained professionals who provide comprehensive care and evidence-based treatments. The center implements a holistic services to help young individuals overcome their struggles and develop healthy coping mechanisms for long-term recovery and well-being.

Fit Facility

Any institution run by the government or NGO, recognized as fit to temporarily take responsibility of a child in need of care and protection.



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Why Permanent Care Matters for Children

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Permanent care is crucial for every child, as it provides a sense of belonging, stability, and unconditional love. Whether it's reuniting with birth parents, being adopted, or having a long-term guardian, a permanent home helps children feel secure and loved. Without this, children may feel lost, scared, or unsure of their future.

Those who lack permanent care often face emotional struggles, loneliness, and difficulty trusting others. They may move from one temporary home to another, which can make it hard for them to form lasting bonds or feel safe. Every child deserves a family they can call their own, forever.



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Children in Care

The most important thing to remember is that in families or in care. It is all about love, support, and caring for each other.

In any family/ care, child may look for people who

- Make them feel safe and loved
- Listen to them and respect their feelings
- Help them to learn and grow
- Encourage them to be themselves
- Take care of their needs, like food, shelter, and education
- Teach them right and wrong
- Celebrate their successes and comfort them when they are sad
- Spend time with them and have fun together



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DON BOSCO NATIONAL FORUM FOR THE YOUNG AT RISK

Bangalore- Chennai- Dimapur- Guwahati- Hyderabad- Kolkata- Mumbai- New Delhi- Panjim- Shillong- Tiruchy

C-991 Don Bosco House SPCI, Sector 7 Dwarka, New Delhi -110077



91 8851653538



Info@dbyarforum.org



<https://dbyarforum.org/>