

Counselor Guide for Florence and Her Fantastic Family Tree

For use in individual or small group sessions with children of blended families.

Objective

Assist students in defining and celebrating their own unique family.

Activity

Read aloud the book “Florence and Her Fantastic Family Tree”, showing the illustrations. Engage the students in a discussion about their own families.

Use questions such as:

- Tell me about your family. Who is who?
- Can you describe a family tree?
- Who would you put on a family tree?

Use Florence’s Tree (included) as an example to discuss that families are different sizes, colors, people, locations—all unique. Focus on all kinds of families: foster, blended, families who adopt, and families headed by grandparent, aunt, uncle, etc.

Use questions such as:

- How is Florence’s family different from yours?
- How is hers similar to yours?
- What other families do you know about that are different than yours?
- What types of families have you seen in the movies, on TV, or in books you have read?
- How do you feel when you see families different from yours?

Use the Planning Your Family Tree sheet (included) to have students list the members of their family. Some titles such as “Head of my house” are given, others are left blank to be completed. Some students may include step and half brothers and sisters, foster mothers/fathers, grandparents, etc.

Use questions such as:

- Can you explain who you included in your family tree?
- What makes your family special?
- Who would you share your tree with?
- What would you tell them about your family?

Using the Family Tree Chart (included), have students place themselves in the middle of the chart and put family members around them. Have the student write in the names or include pictures or drawings of the members to show their family.

Allow students to present their family to the other students and counselor.

Materials included: Florence’s Tree, Planning Your Family Tree sheet, and the Family Tree Chart.

Planning Your Family Tree

Head(s) of my family

Brothers

FABIAN

Sisters

LUCY

PERCY

Uncles

FLORENCE

Aunts

BRIAN

Cousins

BETTY

Other members

BRUCE





JAMES

FRED

CAITLIN

FABIAN

FLORENCE

BETTY

BIAN

BRUCE

LUCY

WILLS

KATE

PERCY

SAM