



Family assembly sheet

Aim

To show that every child needs to grow up within a caring family environment so that they can fulfil their potential

Outcomes

Your pupils will:

- Appreciate how significant a role their family/guardian plays in their development
- Understand that there is no such thing as a typical family and that children and young people grow up in very different circumstances around the world
- Be inspired to 'unleash their potential' to support the work of Hope and Homes for Children

You will need

- All three case studies – Emery's, Aleksander's and Dana's story

Discussion one

Ask your pupils what the word family means to them. This will get them thinking about what a family gives them. Ask them why their family/guardian is important to them? Ask them to think about what they get from their family/guardian that you don't get from anyone else? What is their favourite memory of their family?

Imagine growing up alone without a family. Across Central and Eastern Europe over one million children live in orphanages. Some of these children have lived in an orphanage all of their lives and don't even know what a family is. In Africa children are growing up alone because their parents have died as a result of illness, conflict or poverty.

Ask your pupils to discuss what it would be like growing up without a family or adult support and guidance. What type of things would they miss out on? What kind of challenges would they have?

Conclusion

Our families and guardians play an extremely important role in our lives. They ensure that we are safe and protected, have a home, clothes and food and the opportunity to attend school. As well as providing all of these necessities they offer care and support and advice and encouragement. Because of this unique support we are have the opportunity to fulfil our potential.

Discussion two

Hope and Homes for Children is a charity that works across Central and Eastern Europe and Africa to enable children to grow up within a caring family environment. Where possible Hope and Homes for Children ensures that children and young people grow up with their biological parents – however this is not always possible.

Discuss how even in the UK children grow up in different family circumstances. Encourage your pupils to discuss what these might be – adoptive families, foster families, with their extended families (grandparents or aunts and uncles).

Use the case studies of either Dana or Emery to show how children and young people grow up in different family environments.

- See attached case study – Emery’s story
A child-headed household
- See attached case study – Dana’s story or Alexander’s story
A foster family

Conclusion

No two families are the same, but what is important is the caring, secure and nurturing that environment they provide for children to grow up in.

Across the world there are many children who are not growing up in families due to poverty, war and disease. However there are organisations like Hope and Homes for Children who are working to ensure that all children have someone who cares for them.

By taking part in Unleashing your Potential we will be enabling other children and young people across Central and Eastern Europe and Africa to grow up in a caring family environment.

Other resources

- Unleashing your Potential website: www.hopeandhomes.org/unleash
- Hope and Homes for Children website: www.hopeandhomes.org