

# ***Ollie the Owl Learns About Families***

Lesson Objective:

Students will learn about the different types of families and the importance of love and support within them through the story "Ollie the Owl Learns About Families."

Materials Needed:



- The story "Ollie the Owl Learns About Families"
- The song "Ollie the Owl's Family Adventure"
- Ollie's Wise Choices Poster
- Paper and pencils, crayons and markers
- Activity 1- puppets (owl, bear, rabbit, bee, beaver, squirrel)
- Activity 2- Family Tree handout
- Home Connection Letter

Introduction to the Topic (10 minutes)

Greeting Outline:

- Welcome the children and have them sit in a circle (if applicable)
- Briefly talk about what a family is and why families are important.
- Introduce the concept that families can look different but are all special because of the love they share.

**Greeting and Circle Time Teacher Script**

- **Warm Welcome and Opening Discussion:**
  - "Good morning, friends! I'm so happy to see all of you. Today, we're going to talk about something very special: *families*. Can anyone tell me what a family is?"
  - Wait for the children to respond.
- **Discussion Starter**
  - "Yes! Families are the people who take care of us and love us. Families can look different—some are big, and some are small, but every family is important because of the love and care they share."
  - (Pause and acknowledge responses.)

- "Today, we're going to read a story about Ollie the Owl and the different families he meets. Let's see what Ollie learns about how families can be different and special!"

Read the Story (15 minutes)

Story Time Outline:



- Read the story "Ollie the Owl Learns About Families" aloud to the class
- Engage the children by asking questions about the different families Ollie met and what made each family special.
- Emphasize the importance of love and support in every family.

### Story Time Teacher Script:

#### 1. Prepare the Students for the Story:

- a. "As we read, I'll ask some questions so you can help Ollie discover what makes each family special."
- b. (Read the story aloud, pausing at key moments to ask questions and engage the children.)

#### 2. Read the story with an emphasis on key moments:

While reading, pause during key moments to ask the following questions:.

- *Why is Ollie curious about other families?*  
(Encourages connection with Ollie's curiosity and kindness.)
- *What does Harriet the Hare's family like to do together?*  
(Checks listening and comprehension.)
- *How is Betty the Beaver's family helping each other?*  
(Reinforces family teamwork.)
- *What is special about Buzz the Bee's family?*  
(Highlights cooperation and community.)

- *Who is in Benny the Bear's family?*  
(Shows family diversity—some families are small.)
- *How did Ollie feel as he visited each new friend's family?*  
(Supports emotional awareness and empathy.)
- *What did all the families have in common, even though they looked different?*  
(Emphasizes the story's core theme—love and connection.)
- *What did Ollie do when he got home to his own family?*  
(Checks for recall and appreciation of sharing.)
- *What did Ollie tell his mom and dad about what he learned?*  
(Helps reinforce the message through repetition.)
- *How did Ollie's parents feel when he shared what he learned?*  
(Supports understanding of supportive, loving relationships.)

### **Ollie the Owl Learns About Families**

In a forest green and wide,  
Lived Ollie the Owl, with eyes so bright.  
He had a family, loving and dear,  
But he wondered about others far and near.

One day, Ollie flew to the glen,  
Where he met Harriet the Hare and her den.  
Harriet's family, big and small,  
Hopped around with joy for all.

"Ollie," said Harriet, "meet my crew,  
We're a big family, it's true.  
We help each other hop and play,  
And share our love every day."

Ollie smiled, then flew to the brook,

Where Betty the Beaver was fixing a nook.  
Betty's family worked with cheer,  
Building a dam, year after year.

"Ollie," said Betty, "this is my clan,  
We build together, as best we can.  
Our family's strong, with paws so clever,  
We stick together, now and forever."

Ollie nodded, learning more,  
About the families he'd not seen before.  
He flew to the meadow, wide and free,  
And saw Buzz the Bee with his family.

"Hello, Ollie," Buzz did hum,  
"Meet my family, see how we come."

We work as a team, in our hive so sweet,  
Making honey, our special treat."

Ollie marveled, seeing the way,  
Each family was different, yet loving each  
day.

Next, he met Benny the Bear,  
With his family, who showed they care.

"Ollie," said Benny, "we're a pair,  
Just my dad and me, but we love to share.  
We fish and play, and hug so tight,  
Our family's small, but our love is bright."

Ollie learned, with each new sight,  
That families are special, in their own right.  
Some are big, and some are small,  
But love is the heart of them all.

He flew back home, feeling glad,  
To his family, his mom and dad.  
He shared his day, and what he found,  
About the families all around.

"Mom, Dad," Ollie said with glee,  
"Families are different, just like you and me.  
But one thing's the same, this I know,  
Love makes every family grow."

Ollie's mom hugged him tight,  
"We're proud of you, for seeing the light.  
Acceptance and love, that's the key,  
To understanding others, completely."

Ollie the Owl, wise and bright,  
Learned about families, and it felt right.  
He knew that love, in every form,  
Made each family special, and kept them  
warm.

So remember Ollie, and what he learned,  
About the love that each family earned.  
Big or small, near or far,  
Love is what makes families the stars.

### 3. Post-Story Teacher Script

- "Ollie learns that every family is different. Some families are big, like Harriet's and some are small, like Benny's, but what makes every family special is love. "

### 4. Post-Story Questions

Ask these questions to help students reflect on the story and connect it to their own experiences:

- *What do you think Ollie's story teaches us about families?*  
(Encourages students to summarize the main idea.)

- *Can you tell us about your own family? What makes it special?*  
(Helps children celebrate their unique family experience.)
- *Do all families have to look the same to be a family? Why or why not?*  
(Fosters acceptance and inclusion.)
- *What are some different ways families can be made?*  
(Supports diverse understanding—e.g., big/small, one parent, grandparents, adoption, etc.)
- *What are things families do to show love to each other?*  
(Promotes emotional connection and real-life application.)
- *Why do you think it's important to learn about other families?*  
(Encourages perspective-taking and kindness.)
- *How can we be respectful when someone's family is different from ours?*  
(Builds respectful attitudes and social awareness.)
- *What's something nice you could say to a friend about their family?*  
(Promotes empathy and appreciation.)
- *What do you love doing most with your family?*  
(Encourages sharing and connection among classmates.)
- *If you were Ollie, which family would you want to visit first, and why?*  
(Sparks imagination and reinforces story engagement.)

Sing the Song (10 minutes)



- Teach the children the “Ollie the Owl’s Family Adventure” song
- Sing the song together a few times, encouraging the children to join the actions.

“Now, let’s sing a fun song about what Ollie learned. I’ll show you some hand actions to go with the song, and you can join in!”

“Ollie the Owl’s Family Adventure” Song

Hand Movements

[Verse]

Ollie the Owl lives up in the trees  
With a mom who whispers secrets on the breeze  
A dad who's wise with stories to spare  
Teaching little Ollie there's love everywhere

Raise arms up in the air

[Chorus]

Oh Ollie and Benny and Harriet too  
Buzz and Betty and Sammy  
It's true  
Each family's different  
But love's what they share  
A song of the forest  
A bond that's rare

Place hands over heart

[Verse 2]

Benny the Bear has a den so snug  
With hugs from his papa and mama's warm mug  
They laugh through the seasons  
They grow every day  
A family of love that's here to stay

Give yourself a hug

[Chorus]

Oh Ollie and Benny and Harriet too  
Buzz and Betty and Sammy  
It's true  
Each family's different  
But love's what they share  
A song of the forest  
A bond that's rare

Place hands over heart

[Bridge]

Harriet the Hare hops quick on her feet

Hop up and down

Her siblings all bouncing  
It's quite the feat  
Buzz the Bee hums with his dozens of kin  
In their hive  
The love is buzzing within

[Verse 3]

Betty the Beaver by the river's flow	wiggle hand like a fish
With her family of builders who craft and grow	
Sammy the Squirrel hides acorns so high	
With a family that plays beneath the sky	spread arms wide to the sky

"Great job singing! Let's all remember that each family is unique, but what is the same is the love they have for each other."

Do an Activity (20 minutes)

- Students will understand different kinds of families.

**Please choose from the following 2 activities:**

### Activity 1: Animal Role-Play (15 minutes)



#### 1. Introduce Activity

"Next, we're going to play with puppets! Each puppet will tell us about their family and what makes it special."

### Activity Instructions

For each role-play scenario, choose one student to come up and pretend to be one of the characters. Let the child describe the character's family, answering a question below:.

1. What is one thing the family loves to do together?

2. What is the family's favorite meal to eat together?
3. What is the family's favorite place to visit?.

"Wonderful! Every family has something special they do together. It could be building, playing, or just spending time with each other."



## Activity 2: Family Trees (15 minutes)

- **Introduce Activity**

"Now we're going to make our very own *Family Trees*! Each tree will show the people who are part of your family."

- **Activity Instructions**

### Instructions for Craft Activity

1. **Distribute Materials:** Provide each child with the Family Tree handout
2. **Explain the Craft:**  
"You can draw or write the names of your family members on the branches. You can also use stickers and colors to decorate your tree however you like!"  
  
(Hand out materials and assist children as they work on their family trees.)
3. **As They Work:**  
"While you work, think about what makes your family special. Do you like playing games together? Or maybe your family loves to cook or read stories?"
4. **Sharing the Family Tree:**  
"Let's share our Family Trees! Who would like to show their tree and tell us a bit about your special family?"



Wrap Up the Lesson (5 minutes)

1. Review and Reflection Overview:

- Review what they learned about families and what makes them special

**Review and Reflection Teacher Script**

**1. Gather in a Circle for Reflection:**



"Let's all gather back in a circle. Today, we learned that families can look different, but what makes them special is the love and support they share."

"Who can tell me one thing they learned about families today?"

**Closing**

"That's right! Families can be big or small, and they can do all kinds of different things together. But the most important thing about every family is the love they share."

"I am so proud of all of you for learning about families today! I hope you can go home and share what you learned with your family tonight."

**Home Connection Letter**

**1. Sending Information Home:**

- "Before you go, I have a letter for you to take home. It talks about what we learned today, so you can share it with your family. You can also show your family tree and tell them about the story of Ollie the Owl."

(Hand out the parent letters.)

"Thank you for being such wonderful listeners and friends today! I can't wait to see you all next time."

- Hand out the letters as the children prepare to leave.

## Parent Letter

### Sending Information Home:

- Provide each child with a letter to take home to their parents explaining the lesson

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Today in class, we learned about families through the story "Ollie the Owl Learns About Families." This story teaches children about the different types of families and the importance of love and support within them.

Here's what we learned:

- Different Types of Families – Understanding that families can look different but are all special because of the love they share.
- Love and Support – Recognizing that love and support are what make families special and strong.

We practiced these concepts through role-playing and making "Family Trees." You can help reinforce this at home by encouraging your child to talk about their family and what they love about them.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,



# ***My Family Tree***

