



SOCIAL STUDIES

Lesson

Lesson

1

UNIT – Relationship with Significant Others

The Importance of Communication in Families

INTRODUCTION

A family is made up of a variety of persons. Each person has his /her own personality, belongs to a specific age group and as a result of the age group will have specific goals and aims. If each person does not respect the rights of other family members, there is going to be no end of conflict in the home which could lead to a complete break down of communication.

One of the best ways to make sure that family members live together in peace and harmony and at the same time live individual lives that could be considered as happy and enjoyable, is to have positive and honest communication in the home. Through the medium of positive and honest communication, each person will be able to express feelings, identify problems that may arise from day to day and find solutions that would lead to the maintenance and enhancement of the much needed healthy relationship in the family.

As you go through each section of this lesson, you will be asked to make relevant suggestions from time to time and there will be activities that will enable you to share some of your personal experiences as a family member or from the knowledge you may have gained from your observation of family life in your community.

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson you will be able to:

- Identify strategies for effective communication among family members
- Make a list of at least three methods of effective communication
- Classify situations presented into groups of either effective or ineffective communication
- Outline advantages and disadvantages of effective communication in the family



WHY IS COMMUNICATION IN THE HOME IMPORTANT?

One of the greatest desires of every individual is to be happy and contented in this world. Belonging to a happy family plays a very significant part in helping someone to achieve that goal of happiness and contentment. However, happiness at home cannot be attained without communication. A happy family is indeed a strong family. From the strength of the family, individual members get the strength to face the world and the many problems that may confront them daily.

The family is said to be the most basic unit of society in the context that the way a person conducts himself/ herself in society, depends to a very large extent on the type of values and standards of behaviour he brings from the home into the society. For this reason, the family has the responsibility to train and prepare its members to take their places in society with honor and dignity.

One of the first things to be communicated about should be the roles and responsibilities of members.

Members of a family have different roles to play. A role can be defined as a pattern of behavior that goes with or is expected of a particular position. Every position includes the rights, duties and responsibilities by which it is characterized. Family members hold positions of either parents or children and the role of the child is determined to some degree by gender. If every family member is made to understand and appreciate the position held and the importance of honoring or fulfilling its expectations, families can go a long way in avoiding many of the problems that face families today.



ACTIVITY 1

Take some time now to list at least three (3) roles that would relate to each position held by family members as indicated below:

1. Father
2. Mother
3. Son
4. Daughter

You can compare your list with the traditional roles of members of the Caribbean Family found on pages 21 and 22 of your text book: Social Studies Self Study and Distance Learning.

WHY IS COMMUNICATION IN THE HOME IMPORTANT? (CONT'D)

When family members understand and perform their roles, a spirit of togetherness and respect is encouraged and they feel more comfortable to talk about their problems whether or not they stem from the home or the society. This further helps to decrease the power of negative influences on members. The fact that they honour their roles, express themselves freely in the home, and support each other, will encourage them to rely on each other in time of need. They will then be

able to trust each other for financial support, advice and love and support to cope with the many and varied issues of life.

The key points of this section are:

1. A FAMILY IS MADE UP OF A VARIETY OF PERSONS WITH DIFFERENT PERSONALITIES, AGES AND GOALS
2. RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS OF EACH OTHER HELPS TO DECREASE CONFLICTS
3. EXPRESSING FEELINGS AND DISCUSSING PROBLEMS ENCOURAGES PEACE AND HARMONY IN THE HOME
4. MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY MUST BE TAUGHT TO UNDERSTAND AND FULFIL THEIR ROLES
5. WHEN FAMILY MEMBERS TRUST EACH OTHER THEY RELY ON EACH OTHER AND LESSEN NEGATIVE INFLUENCES FROM OUTSIDE THE HOME



ACTIVITY 2

CASE STUDY

Study the statement below then answer the questions which follow.

A fourteen (14) year old boy looked at his father and said:

“Daddy I am disappointed that you are not fulfilling your role as a father.”

Which of the following situations may have led the boy to make such a statement to his father?

- a) The father assists at home
- b) He takes out his family regularly
- c) He is always too busy to attend his son’s soccer games
- d) He loves and respects his children

- (1) Give three reasons why the son told his daddy that he was not fulfilling his role as a father
- (2) State two reasons why the father was not fulfilling his role
- (3) Suggest to the father two things he could do to help him solve his problem
- (4) Explain to the father three problems his son could face as a result of him neglecting his duties.