



Luna Loves Library Day

Written by Joseph Coelho and Illustrated
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This beautifully illustrated story is great for starting a discussion about families and what they might share together. The story includes themes of love, shared interests and parental separation.

5 Objectives

Lesson 1:

I can tell you who is in my family and why they are important.

Lesson 2:

I can tell you what I like to do with my family.

Lesson 3:

I can tell you how I show love to my family.

Lesson 4:

I can show skills related to active listening e.g. eye contact.

Lesson 5:

I can tell you what good manners are and how to show them.

Lesson 6:

Reflection and Evaluation

Tags:

family, love, sharing, parental separation, manners, listening

Sensitive Content in This Story

This story deals sensitively with themes of families, love and parental separation. It shows a family situation that may be different to other children's families. The illustrations also show a mum and dad who look different to each other, and the story alludes to them coming from different backgrounds. It also suggests that the mum and dad had frequent arguments.

These themes may prompt disclosures from children about their own family arrangements. Children may be inquisitive about different types of families, why families might live separately and why they might look different to each other. They may talk about big emotions they have seen from their own families.

Some children in the class may have experienced a parental separation and have found it difficult. It is important to create a safe space for these children to share their feelings, should they wish to and to support them in being part of the activities.

There is also discussion of hugs, which some children may not be comfortable with. Discuss different ideas of how people show love that include non-physical ways.

Some of the things children share in these discussions could be safeguarding concerns, therefore teachers and other staff should be prepared for this and follow their school's usual reporting system and procedures.

Wellbeing skill links

Through the following 5 lesson plans children will explore the following RSHE statutory (s) and PSHE non- statutory (n) wellbeing objectives.

Respectful relationships:

The conventions of courtesy and manners. **(Lesson 4, 5)**

Families and People who Care for Me:

That families are important for children growing up because they can give love security and stability. **(Lesson 1, 2, 3)**

The characteristics of healthy family life, commitment to each other, including in times of difficulty, protection and care for children and other family members, the importance of spending time together and sharing each other's lives. **(Lesson 1, 2)**

That others' families, either in school or in the wider world, sometimes look different from their family, but that they should respect those differences and know that other children's families are also characterised by love and care. **(Lesson 3)**

That stable, caring relationships, which may be of different types, are at the heart of happy families, and are important for children's security as they grow up **(Lesson 2, 3)**

Further Skill Coverage:

All **Settle** activities cover: Simple self-care techniques, including the importance of rest, time spent with friends and family and the benefits of hobbies and interests.

All **Training** activities cover: That there is a normal range of emotions (e.g. happiness, sadness, anger, fear, surprise, nervousness) and scale of emotions that all humans experience in relation to different experiences and situations. How to recognise and talk about their emotions, including having a varied vocabulary of words to use when talking about their own and others' feelings.

Literacy Links

Through the following 5 lesson plans children will explore the following literacy objectives.

Listening, attention and engagement	Vocabulary
<p>Is interested in books and rhymes and may have favourites</p> <p>Holds books the correct way up and turns pages</p> <p>Uses small world play to engage with songs, rhymes and stories</p>	<p>Understands single words in context</p> <p>Identifies words by pointing to the right picture and selects familiar objects by name</p>
Retrieval	Inference
<p>Begins to understand 'who', 'what', 'where', 'why' and 'how' questions when listening to a story</p> <p>Describes main story settings, events and principal characters</p> <p>Demonstrates understanding when talking with others about what they have read</p>	<p>Listens to stories, accurately anticipating key events and responds to what they hear with relevant comments, questions or actions</p>

British Values and SMSC



Lesson Content

All five of the lesson plans related to this book follow our STORY structure



S **Settle:** Start your session with a settling activity to encourage children to be in the right frame of mind for listening and learning about their wellbeing.



T **Training:** Keep children's emotional literacy updated by spending a couple of minutes looking at a picture from the book and discussing the different emotions the characters are feeling.



O **Objective:** Introduce a wellbeing objective for children to focus on when they are listening to the story



R **Read:** Read the story and discuss the following guided reading questions as a class.



Y **You:** To finish the session children have the opportunity to reflect on the book and to relate the book to themselves.

Further Resources

Books that cover similar themes:

[Everything Changes by Clare Helen Welsh](#) – a book that deals with the topic of parental separation

[The Rabbit Listened by Cori Doerrfeld](#) – a book about needing somebody to listen when you have big emotions

[How Rude! by Clare Helen Welsh](#) – a book about manners

[Love Makes a Family by Sophie Beer](#) – a book that discusses different types of families

[The Invisible String by Patrice Karst](#) – a book that covers themes of separation, loss and grief

[Luna Loves Dance by Joseph Coelho and Fiona Lumbers](#) – more books in the 'Luna Loves...' series. Luna Loves Dance is a great option for talking about perseverance and determination.

For children struggling with parental separation or any other themes covered in this book, please speak to your school's Designated Safeguarding Lead.

There are also resources and charities with more information, for example the NSPCC and Gingerbread.org.uk

