

Blended Families

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- When pre-existing family units combine to form one
- After Smith (2009), 2015, p.48
- Children in blended families have experienced family transitions through single parenthood, remarriage (Crouter et al., 2015, p. 403)
- Remarriage during middle and late childhood year can affect the divorce from childhood (Fergus & Denny, 2018, p.1127), which impact socio-emotional development and mental health (Lam and McLaughlin, 2016, p.1542)

After Smith (2009), 2015, p.48

Single-Parenting

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- Death, divorce, choice, incarceration
- In 2011, "single-parent families represented 16.3%" (Statistics Canada, 2011, p. 3)
- Not "as good" of a family- can be hard on child
- Hardships during infant and toddler years
- No immediate second support system (one parent to do everything)
- Importance of strong relationships and development
- Behavioural problems

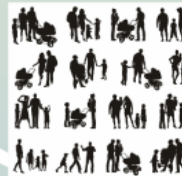


After Smith (2009), 2015, p.48

Background / Description

Family structure refers to the combination of relatives that comprise a family. Classification on this variable considers the presence or absence of: legally married spouses or common law partners; children; and, in the case of economic families, other relatives. (Canadian Statistics, 2015, para.2)

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Skip Generation Families

- 5% of all Canadian children live with grandparents (Statistics Canada, 2011, pg14)
- Often due to family crisis (Dannison et al. 1999, Paragraph 1)
- Children are often experience behavioral or health issues (Dannison et al. 1999, Paragraph 4.5)
- Grandparents often feel isolation or financial strain (Dannison et al. 1999, Paragraph 13)
- Kinship care still preferable to foster care (Cooper, 2012, pg28)



After Smith (2009), 2015, p.48

Divorced Families

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- Approx 70,000 divorces per year (Rial & Zuber 2015, p. 109)
- Role model, a source of parental help, emotional support, and a partner (Rial & Zuber, 2015, p.403)
- Unhappy, unbalanced, and/or uninvolved (Machado & Holloway et al.)
- More compromised children as cited by Rial & Zuber, 2015, p.403 (Dangas, Sandler, West, Muddah & Carson 1995)
- School Age children (Rial & Zuber, 2015, p.404)
- Schoolchildren's (Schulz, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 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Divorced Families

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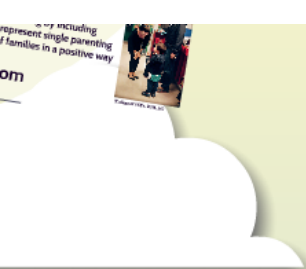
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- Role model, a source of parental help, emotional support, and a supervisor (Kail & Zohler, 2015, p.403).
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- School Age children (Kail & Zohler, 2015, p.404).
- School academics (Gidycz, Coble, Cernishaw, Perry, & Nansel, 1984)

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"a shared view of families as competent and capable, curious, and rich in experience informs our relationships with families and has a significant impact on children" (HDLH, 2014, p. 18).

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Atkins (2010, p.1)

As ECE's ...

- Don't take a side have a neutral stand (concentrate around child)
- Be aware of community resources
- Make the classroom a safe place



Senior City (2016, p.1)

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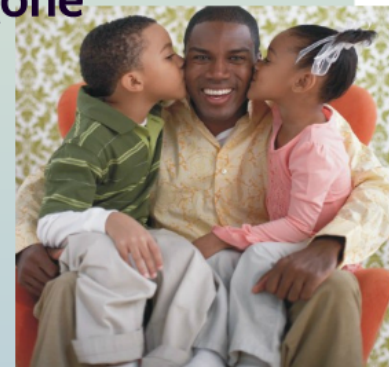
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Single-Parenting

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- Death, divorce, choice, incarceration
- In 2011, "...lone-parent families represented 16.3%" (Statistics Canada, 2011, p. 3)
- Not "as good" of a family- can be hard on child
- Hardships during infant and toddler years
- No immediate second support system (one parent to do everything)
- Importance of strong relationships and development
- Behavioural problems



(Joshua, 2012, p.1)



(Polk, 2015, p.1)

As ECE's...

- Know the reason for the parent being single
- Adjust language use and actions accordingly
- Be a support system to the parent - ask how you can be of help
- Help the child/ren feel that they belong by including books, toys, posters, etc... that represent single parenting
- Talk about the different kinds of families in a positive way without biases

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(College of ECEs, 2014, p.1)

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- Children in blended families have experienced family transitions: divorce, single parenthood, re-marriage (Crosnoe et Al, 2014, p. 460)
- Remarriage during toddler and pre-school year can offset the stresses from transitions (Ryan & Claessens, 2013, p.1227) , which impact socio-emotional development and mental health (Lee and McLanahan, 2015, p.753)



(Family Fusion Community, 2015, para 1)

As ECE's

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- Maintain an open dialogue with parents on changes to the family dynamic
- Create stable and secure relationships with children within the centre
- Be aware of any changes in behaviour patterns, and provide support as necessary

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