



Archbishops' Commission on Families and Households

For use with age groups 7 - 11

This is a sample session. Please feel free to adapt it to suit the needs and make up of your group. It might be easiest for one person to lead the session, while another jots down notes or observations.

Introduction and background to the session

Adapt this 'script' to suit your group:

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are church leaders. They want to know what helps families and households to live well today.

They have asked a group of people (called Commissioners) to help them find out. The Commissioners have already heard from a number of people, and now they want to hear from you. There are no right or wrong answers – the Commissioners want to hear what you really think.

Core activity 1

Preparation: Download a friendly image of an alien, such as [the one here](#). Gather together newspapers and magazines, sheets of A3 paper, pens, glue and scissors.

Introduction: Meet Arlo the Alien. They have never met earth people before and are full of questions. They have noticed that there are groups of people who live together called families – but they are not sure what makes a family. Ask your group to work in 2s or 3s to create collages using words and images that will help Arlo the Alien understand what is a family.

Ask permission to photograph the collages (ensuring that no attributable data is captured) for submission to the Commission.

Extension: What other questions do you think Arlo might have about families?

Jot down some of the questions or themes which the children suggest for submission to the Commission.





Core Activity 2

Preparation: Print or write these statements on large pieces of paper

- A family can include anyone that you love.
- A family can include pets such as dogs, cats and guinea pigs.
- A family is one or two parents and their children who live in the same house.

These are some of the things that adults have told the Commission about families. Read each statement out and invite your group to discuss or comment on it.

Write what they say around that statement.

Photograph the finished papers for submission to the Commission.

Optional Activity

Preparation: Write these nine headings* on individual Post-It notes (or print them from the PDF). Make enough sets so that your group can work in 3s and 4s. The headings are:



Family and Home
School
Friends
Future
Appearance
Money and things
Good health
Having choices
Local area



When young people were asked what helped them have a good childhood, these are some of the things they said.

Invite each group to arrange the words in a diamond shape with the most important thing at the top, the next two in the second row, three in the third row, two in the fourth and the lowest priority at the bottom.

Invite each group to comment on how they made their choices. Is there anything they would want to add or takeaway? Why?

Jot down any additions or explanations that are suggested for submission to the Commission.
Photograph the diamonds for submission to the Commission.

* taken from the Good Childhood Enquiry



**A family can include anyone that
you love**



**A family can include pets such as
dogs, cats and guinea pigs**



**A family is one or two parents and
their children who live in the same
house**



**Family &
Home**

**Money &
Things**

School

**Good
Health**

Appearance

Friends

**Having
Choices**

Future

Local Area