Kindergarten Families Resources

New York State Learning Standards for Social Studies

My family and other families
My family and other families are alike and different

Books:

*Families* by Lisa Trumbauer (2001)
Describes different types of families, what family members do together, and where families live.

Guided Reading: G
20 Pages

*Families in Many Cultures* by Heather Adamson (2007)
Includes bibliographical references (p. 23) and index. Full-color photographs and simple text describe various families and cultures from around the world.

Guided Reading: I
24 Pages
**Families** by Ann Morris (2000)  
Includes index. Presents a simple explanation of families, how they function, how they are different, and how they are alike.

Guided Reading: E  
29 Pages

**What is a Family** by Rebecca Rissman (2012)  
Includes index. What is a family? -- Siblings -- Parents -- Aunts and uncles -- Cousins -- Grandparents -- Foster parents -- Role models -- Family tree -- Words to know. An introduction to families, discussing what families are, how family members are related, and how each family is unique.

Guided Reading: K  
24 Pages

**Families: Parents** by Rebecca Rissman (2011)  
This title teaches readers that all families are different, and that most families include parents. A family tree shows readers how people in families are related to each other. Includes index. What is a family? -- What are families like? -- Different parents -- Family tree. Photographs and text discuss families, explaining what a family is, and describing the roles and characteristics that make up a parent.

Guided Reading: G  
24 Pages
We All Have Different Families by Melissa Higgins (2012)
Includes bibliographical references (p. 23) and index. Simple text and full-color photos celebrate different kinds of families.

Guided Reading: J
24 Pages

Families: Grandparents by Rebecca Rissman (2011)
This title teaches readers that all families are different, and that some families include grandparents. A family tree shows readers how people in families are related to each other.

Guided Reading: G
24 Pages

Families: Foster Parents by Rebecca Rissman (2011)
This title teaches readers that all families are different, and that some families include foster parents.

Guided Reading: H
24 Pages
Families: Aunts and Uncles by Rebecca Rissman (2011)
This title teaches readers that all families are different, and that some families include uncles and aunts. A family tree shows readers how people in families are related to each other.

Guided Reading: G
24 Pages

Families: Brothers and Sisters by Rebecca Rissman (2011)
This title teaches readers that all families are different, and that some families include brothers and sisters. A family tree shows readers how people in families are related to each other.

Guided Reading: G
24 Pages

Families: Cousins by Rebecca Rissman (2011)
This title teaches readers that all families are different, and that some families include cousins. A family tree shows readers how people in families are related to each other.

Guided Reading: G
24 Pages
*Me and My Family Tree* by Joan Sweeney (2000)
Using a family tree, a child explains how her brother, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins are related to her.

Guided Reading: I
28 Pages

*Family Celebrations* by Debbie Gallagher (2009)
Includes index. Families -- Family celebrations -- Births -- Birthdays and name days -- Coming-of-age celebrations -- Weddings -- Deaths -- Christmas -- Id-al-Fitr -- Thanksgiving -- Chinese New Year -- Mother's and Father's days -- Traditional costumes -- A family calendar. Photographs and simple text introduce young readers to the different ways that people around the world celebrate holidays and special occasions.

Guided Reading: I
32 Pages

*Family Homes* by Debbie Gallagher (2009)
Includes index. Families -- Family homes -- Different types of homes -- Shelter and protection -- Sharing time and space -- Feeling safe and cared for -- Private spaces -- Work spaces -- Learning spaces -- Family activities -- A floor plan. Describes the different types of homes in which families from around the world live and discusses the uses of various rooms.

Guided Reading: L
32 Pages
Family Members by Debbie Gallagher (2009)
Includes index. Parents and children -- Family connections -- Stepfamilies -- Grandparents -- The extended family -- A family tree -- Your family tree. Describes the different people that make up a family and explains how children can learn more about their relatives by making and studying a family tree.

Guided Reading: L
32 Pages

Family Stories by Debbie Gallagher (2009)
Includes index. Families -- Family stories -- Inheriting family treasures -- Family history -- Family traditions -- Long-time traditions -- Holding on to traditions -- A family photo album -- A family recipe. Examines how family stories are passed from one generation to the next and what they reveal about a family's history and traditions.

Guided Reading: L
32 Pages

Families by Lisa Easterling (2007)
Includes index. Families around the world -- Types of families -- What families do together -- Your family -- Family tree -- Picture glossary. Introduces the elements of the global community, focusing on the similarities and differences between families around the world, and discussing why families are important.

Guided Reading: E
24 Pages
Digital Resources

**Databases:** (To access these databases remotely, ask your librarian for your school’s username and password.)

**Brainpop Jr.:** Brainpop, Jr. is a database that provides a 3-6 minute video on informational topics followed by a comprehension quiz. The database includes activities and lesson plans as well. It is geared towards grades K-3.

Brainpop, Jr. does not have a lot of material to support the family social studies standards for Kindergarten. They do have one video on divorce, however. Two different online quizzes are offered after each video to check for understanding. They are entitled “Easy” and “Hard” with 5 questions each.
**Pebble Go!**
Pebble Go is a database that includes non-fiction books, videos and activities online. The target audience for Pebble Go is Kindergarten through 3rd grade, however Pebble Go can be a great way to pique interest in a topic for 4th and 5th graders. Each book is 5 pages long and includes a read-aloud button that highlights each word as it reads aloud. There are often one or two very short videos on the topic embedded within each book.

Pebble Go's Social Studies Section has a large collection of books on "Families" which support the New York State Social Studies Standards on Families for Kindergarten. They include titles like the ones pictured below:
Here are examples of two of the titles from the family section of Pebble Go. The first example has a short video, the second example does not.

A parent is someone who has a child. A male parent is a father. A mother is a female parent. Some families have one parent. Some families have two parents.

Some children may live with their mother part of the time. They might live with their father the rest of the time. Other children live with one parent all of the time.
Websites:

All About My Family
A printable workbook that is all about family.

My Family and Me
A Kindergarten unit that includes literacy, math and writing activities.

This Is My Family Kindergarten Portfolio
http://homeschooling.about.com/od/kindergarten/ss/kindportfolio_4.htm
Activity on About.com’s homeschooling section that could work for public school as well.

Family Glyph
Uses colored squares to represent family members in a house. Students create their own family house using colored squares.

iPad apps:

My Family Book by Nicolas Chourrout
Cost: Free
My family book could be used as an interactive way for students to share the members of their family and who they are. If families emailed pictures of family members each student could set up an album of their family to share. It’s a neat digital way for students to share who is important to them in their life, and to illustrate that family can be many different combinations of people.