



## Sharing the PS 321 Book of the Month at Home: *Families*, by Susan Kulkin

The Book of the Month (selected by Principal Phillips with input from the Diversity Committee) provides a way for all teachers to focus on a common theme, encouraging school-wide awareness and conversation, and building and strengthening our community. In September and October, every class is reading *Families*, by Susan Kulkin.

In *Families*, children introduce readers to their families through photographs and the child's own words. These children have parents and siblings from a variety of different ethnic, racial, and religious backgrounds. We hear from adopted children, children with special needs, children who have a single parent, and children who have straight, gay, and lesbian parents. *All* of them love their families, and know they are loved. Reading *Families* at home will help children to further appreciate how their own family makes them special, and to see that most families are like theirs—loving, happy, secure—although they may look quite different. Here are some ideas for sharing the book with your child:

### **Flip through the book and see what interests your child.**

Read together what the children chose to say about their families. You might ask:

- “Why did you choose that family?”
- “How is this family like ours? How is it different?”
- “Pretend our family is in the book. What picture would you want to show? What would you say?” Children might be inspired to talk, draw, or write what they imagine.

**Tell your child a story about your family.** Recent studies have shown that hearing a parent's personal stories boosts children's resilience, self-esteem, and self-control by giving them a sense of who they are and where they came from.

The author writes, “What [the children] all have in common is that they feel safe and loved.”

**Talk about how the children feel about their families, and about how your own child feels.** You might ask/say:

- “How can you tell what the child feels?”
- “I felt this way when I was a kid when . . . “
- “Tell me about a time when you felt this way about our family.”
- “Do you remember when . . . ?” Retell a fond family memory together.

We hope that *Families* will inspire rich conversation about your own family, and broaden children's awareness of the different kinds of families they will meet as they grow!

Find other great books to share at [ps321pta.org/diverse-books](http://ps321pta.org/diverse-books). Principal Phillips and the Diversity Committee ([diversitymatters@ps321.org](mailto:diversitymatters@ps321.org)) welcome suggestions for future Books of the Month.