

Skills for Living

Frances Baynor Parnell



by
Yvonne Gentzler, Ph.D
Liz Romero, Ph.D.

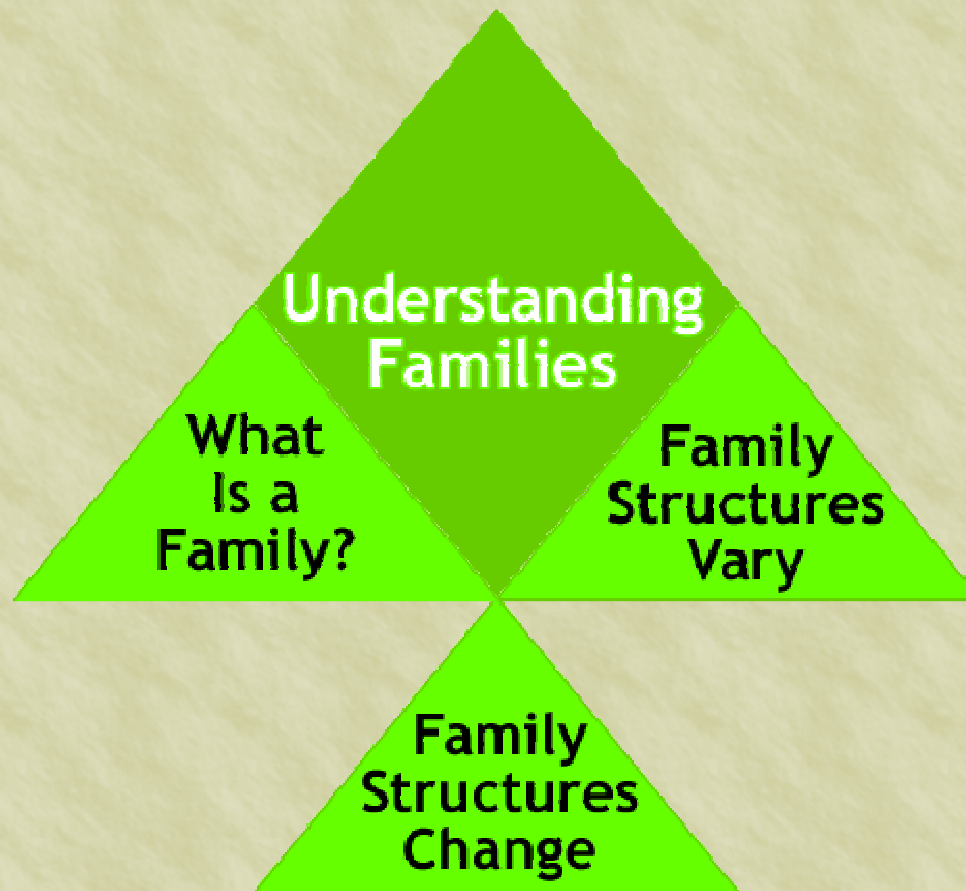


Goodheart-Willcox Co., Inc.
Tinley Park, Illinois

Chapter 4

Understanding Families

- In this chapter, you will learn



Topic 4-1

What Is a Family?

- In this topic, you will learn about the factors that make the family such an important unit, as well as
 - ❖ **Roles of family members**
 - ❖ **Functions of the family**
 - ❖ **Single living**

What Is a Family?

Objectives for Topic 4-1

After studying this topic, you will be able to

- describe roles of family members
- name functions the family unit performs for individuals and society
- analyze how people with a single lifestyle meet their needs for the functions provided by families

Topic 4-1 Terms

❖ family

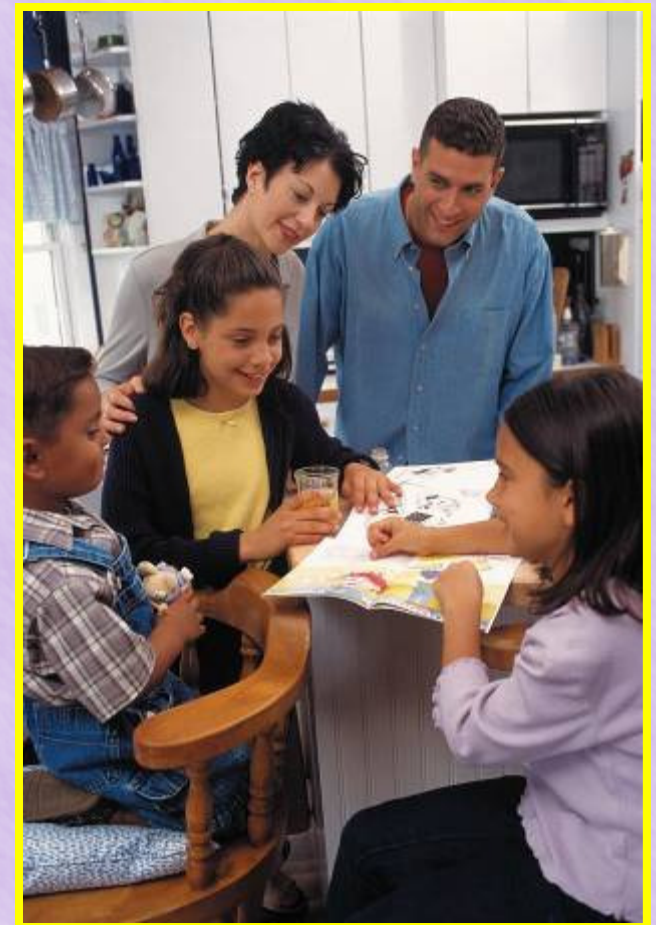
❖ procreation

❖ socialization

What Is a Family?

■ The term *family* can be defined in a number of ways

- ❖ Two or more people related by blood, marriage, or adoption
- ❖ Two or more persons committed to one another over time who share resources, responsibilities for decisions, values, and goals



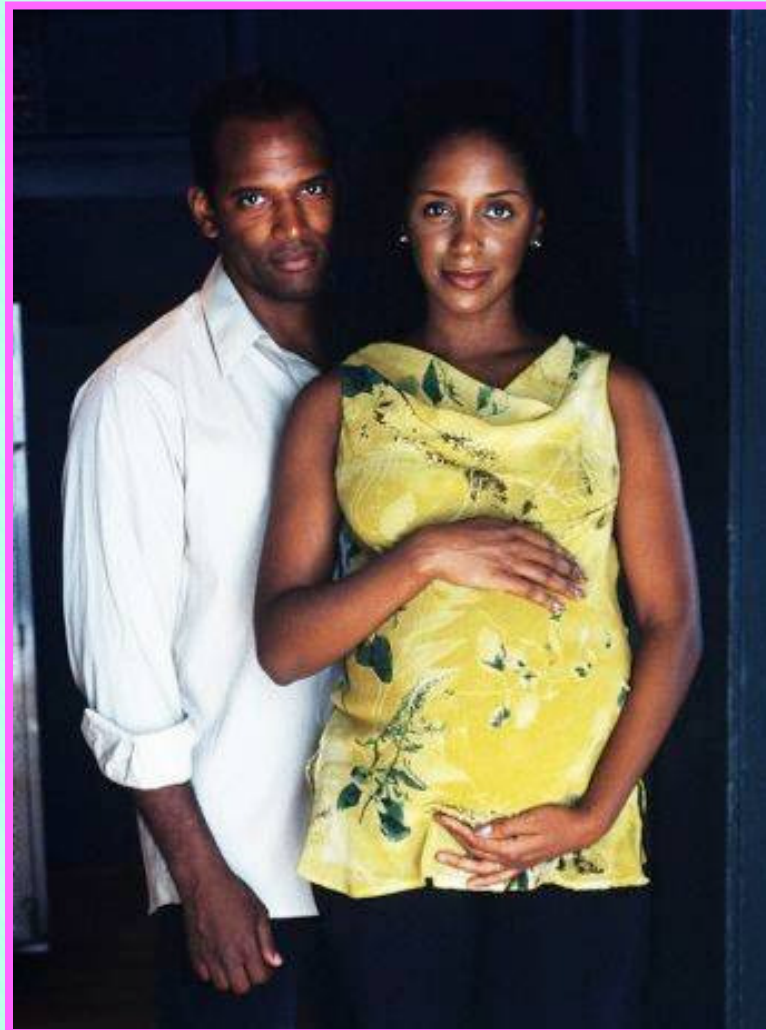
Roles of Family Members

- Inherited roles are roles determined by your birth, such as son or daughter, brother or sister, niece or nephew
- Assigned roles are responsibilities designated to you by others
- Chosen roles refer to the responsibilities you decide to take on

Functions of the Family

- The family unit provides physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual well-being of its members
 - ❖ procreation
 - ❖ physical care
 - ❖ socialization
 - ❖ emotional support

Procreation



- *Procreation* is the function of bearing children
 - ❖ This function assures the continuation of society

Physical Care

- Parents supply family members with food, clothing, and shelter
- They also provide medical care and a safe, healthy environment



Socialization

- *Socialization* is the teaching process used to help children conform to social standards
- Socialization includes
 - ❖ learning appropriate behavior
 - ❖ learning about family heritage and traditions
 - ❖ formal education

Emotional Support

- Emotional support provides children with love and nurturing
- Marriage partners also rely on each other for love, support, and stability

Single Living



- Most single adults live without family
 - ❖ They must find other ways to meet needs for functions usually provided by the family

Choosing the Lifestyle

- People may choose a single lifestyle because they want to
 - ❖ explore their own interests
 - ❖ travel
 - ❖ finish their education
 - ❖ establish a career
 - ❖ have personal freedom and privacy
 - ❖ devote time and attention to civic, social, or religious activities

Accepting the Lifestyle

- Sometimes a single lifestyle is not chosen
 - ❖ Divorce of a couple
 - ❖ Death of a mate
 - ❖ Circumstances that prevent a person from meeting a marriage partner or committing to marriage

Meeting Needs for Family Functions

- Single people meet the function provided by the family through
 - ❖ a network of friends
 - ❖ roommates
 - ❖ contact with family members



Activity

- What specific activities would you suggest to the following person for meeting the needs of family functions?
 - ❖ Wants to remain single permanently
 - ❖ Devoted 100% to career
 - ❖ Enjoys being alone
 - ❖ Values privacy
 - ❖ Likes to relax in peace and quiet

Summary for Topic 4-1

- The family is the most important social unit in cultures throughout the world
- Each person fulfills various inherited and assigned roles in the family
- The family provides the functions of
 - ❖ procreation
 - ❖ physical care
 - ❖ socialization
 - ❖ emotional support