

## Helping Make Families Strong

**Directions** No family is perfect, but every family is strong in some ways. What do you think are your family’s three most important strengths? Write your answers in the first box below. Then ask people from two other families what they consider to be the three greatest strengths in their family. Fill in the answers in the other boxes. Then, working with a classmate, use what you both learned to answer the questions that follow.

<b>My Family’s Strengths</b>
1.
2.
3.

<b>Family 1 Strengths</b>
1.
2.
3.

<b>Family 2 Strengths</b>
1.
2.
3.

1. What common themes or patterns did you find?

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**Helping Make Families Strong (Continued)**

**Activity 35**

2. Did results seem to be affected by whether an adult or a child responded? How?

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3. Fill in the chart below with four important strengths you think families need. Include the reason why each strength is valuable. Then list ways to build each strength in a family.

**Family Strengths**

Strengths	Reasons To Have These Strengths	How To Build These Strengths in a Family

## Multiple Roles

**Directions** Every family member has several family roles. You may be a brother or sister, a son or daughter, a stepson or stepdaughter, and a grandson or granddaughter—all at the same time! You might also be a babysitter for a younger brother or sister. You have other roles, too, that affect family relationships. You might be a bike club member and a library volunteer as well as a student. Complete the questions and activities on this page to explore multiple roles and how they affect families.

1. What are five of your most important roles and your major responsibility in each one? Fill them in on this chart. Include “student” as one of your roles.

Role		Major Responsibility
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

2. How do your roles affect the amount of time you have to spend with your family?

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3. How else do your roles affect your relationships with other family members?

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4. Adults in your family also have multiple roles, such as worker, student, homemaker, parent, and husband or wife. On separate paper, draw charts like the one above for at least three members of your family and fill them in as you did yours. Answer questions 2 and 3 as they relate to each individual. Discuss in class how awareness of people’s multiple roles can help family members be more understanding of each other.

## When Families Change

**Directions** Every time a family changes, roles and relationships within the family change as well. For each of the situations described, suggest a way that roles and relationships may be affected because of the change in the family.

1. **The Pest** Erin is very close to her older sister, Mattie. Both girls consider their little brother, Victor, to be a pest. Then Mattie goes away to college. *How might that affect Erin's relationship with Victor?*

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2. **Illness** April and her sister Rose compete for their parents' attention. Rose develops a serious illness that keeps her in bed much of the time, with periods in the hospital. *How might that change April's relationship with Rose?*

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3. **Death** Penelope's great-grandfather lived with the family so that her parents could take care of him. Then her great-grandfather died. *How might that affect Penelope's relationship with her parents?*

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4. **Blended Family** Cody and Harris are close friends. Cody's mother and Harris's father, both single parents, decide to marry and combine their families. *How might that affect Cody's relationship with Harris?*

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**When Families Change (Continued)**

**Activity 37**

5. **Exchange Student** Gabe is an only child. He and his parents decide to house a foreign exchange student for a year. The foreign exchange student is Pieter, a boy from Germany who is the same age as Gabe. *How might that affect Gabe's relationship with his parents?*

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6. **Divorce** Sam's parents argue a lot. He usually goes into his room and closes the door so he does not have to listen to them. One day they tell him that they plan to get a divorce. Sam's father moves out. *How might that change Sam's relationship with his mother?*

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7. **New Baby** Abby lives with her mother and stepfather. She has no brothers or sisters. Then she learns that her mother is expecting a baby. After the baby is born, her parents often ask her to babysit. *How might that affect Abby's relationship with her mother and stepfather?*

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8. **Moving In** Tyrus and Elena always enjoyed spending holidays with their grandparents. After their grandfather's death, their grandmother moved in with Tyrus and Elena and their parents. *How might that change their relationship with their grandmother?*

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9. **Less Time** Theo has always admired his older brother Griffin and likes to spend time with him. Griffin is married and the father of a new baby, with whom he spends much of his time when not working. *How might that affect Theo's relationship with Griffin?*

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# Family Traditions

**Directions** Sharing traditions can strengthen relationships among family members. Think of two traditions your family follows and complete the chart below. Discuss in class what traditions you might like to practice in the family you have someday.

	<b>Questions About the Tradition</b>	<b>Family Tradition 1</b>	<b>Family Tradition 2</b>
1	What is the tradition?		
2	When is this tradition observed?		
3	Did this tradition come from earlier generations? If not, how did it begin?		
4	How has the tradition changed?		
5	Who taught you this tradition?		
6	What do you like about this tradition?		
7	Which family members participate?		
8	How does the tradition affect relationships in your family?		
9	How might your family be different without this tradition?		