

# *PreK for Maine*

## Unit 1: *Family*

Maine Department of Education  
In collaboration with  
Boston Public Schools

## **Unit 1 Overview: Family**

In Unit 1, children explore and talk about families and the many different ways family members relate to and help one another. Through the Unit texts, children hear about families that work together to solve problems, conflicts, and dilemmas. They consider the many roles and responsibilities of family members.

Also in this Unit, children establish foundational skills in understanding letters and letter sounds. They experience taking different perspectives and using inquiry to solve problems through work in Centers, Small Groups, and Storytelling/Story Acting.

Teachers and children engage in Thinking and Feedback and use artifacts to examine and develop their work. Non-fiction and expository text to help children make connections to the real world. Outdoor teaching and learning opportunities are highlighted to expand the boundaries and possibilities of the indoor classroom.

### **Basic Unit Concepts/Goals:**

**A Family Defined:** *A family is a group of people who create a set of relationships to ensure that their own and their loved ones' immediate and longer term needs-physical, emotional, cognitive and language-are met, including those of children. People related by marriage, blood or emotional commitment (or other kind of commitment) who help each other with respect to subsistence and a range of other needs, including those of children, are a family. Sometimes, family arrangements include economic commitment and domestic care giving, while sharing and not sharing a residence.*

1. Family members have role names: mother, father, sister, brother, uncle, aunt, grandmother/father, cousin, stepfather/mother etc.
2. Some family members live together; sometimes family members live apart.
3. Grown-ups in a family take care of the children. Younger children need more care. Older children can help care for younger brothers and sisters.
4. Children sometimes get angry at parents and may feel that their parents don't love them as much as their siblings.
5. Sometimes grown-ups in a family don't like things that children do and tell them to stop or be quiet.

6. Families do things together that are fun.
7. Family members support each other; cooperate, share, and express interests.
8. Families are involved in children's learning, including their language and literacy learning and their efforts exert very strong effects.
9. Members of a family express emotions-happiness, empathy, anger, sadness, jealousy-and use language to develop relationships.
10. Families use conversation and stories to share their memories of past events and their plans for the future.