



Families, Families, Families!

Suzanne Lang , Max Lang (Illustrator)

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No matter your size, shape, or pedigree--if you love each other, you are a family!

Moms, dads, sisters, brothers — and even Great Aunt Sue — appear in dozens of combinations, demonstrating all kinds of nontraditional families! Silly animals are cleverly depicted in framed portraits, and offer a warm celebration of family love.

Families, Families, Families! Details

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Author : Suzanne Lang , Max Lang (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Families, Families, Families! for online ebook

Jennybeast says

hilarious, inclusive, simple and silly.

Ina says

Animal portraits illustrate the many ways that families can be formed. There is incredible humor in the illustrations - great and sometimes goofy facial expressions and often very funny content. For example "some children are adopted" is the caption below a picture of two sheep holding two wolf cubs. "Some children have many pets" - a hippo family surrounded by a dozen birds - while on the next page: "and some just have a plant" shows two grinning tigers, their cub and a cactus. While my story time audience laughed at the silliness, the message, "if you love each other, then you are a family" came through loud and clear when we got to the last page and there was a communal "ahhhh" as I closed the book!

Carol Jen says

This picture book is a super sweet and adorable look at all the different types of families...I love the last line "If you love each other, then you are a family".

Amy says

LOOOOOOVEEE!!!! Perfect. Great for any child to see other families that could be just like their own family. And great for kids to see that there are other non-traditional families out there.

Sara Grochowski says

I love this book! In Families, Families, Families! Suzanne and Max Lang use all types of animals to illustrate every type of family you can imagine. The text is quick and humors, but it's the illustrations that steal the show. The expressions and animal combinations are quirky, charming, and entirely too cute.

Jennie says

Finally! I am a 33 year old librarian and this is the first time I've ever seen a kid's books that shows children being raised by their grandparents - my own familial constellation. Representation matters. And this book runs the full spectrum including adopted kids, kids with gay/lesbian parents, kids with single moms and dads (also really important!) and many other combinations. Although I was a bit sad to see one omission - there

were no foster kids represented.

I also have to say the slightly off rhyme scheme was super irritating - "mom" and "none" DO NOT RHYME (neither do pop and not, ughghghgh). But the diversity element and the adorable drawings made this a 5 star read for me.

Update Of course not an hour after I posted this review I recommended the book to a patron. They briefly flipped though and then practically threw the book down as though it were a live grenade while citing their conservative values. Groaaaaan. Yes certainly, we wouldn't want children to learn that there are other types of families out there.

Emma (Miss Print) says

I really, really, really like this one.

Very clever way to talk about all different families. Smart as well with some jokes to catch on re-reading including a sheep couple who have adopted two wolves (and dressed them appropriately, of course!).

Delightful.

Julie says

simply adorable!

"If you love each other, then you are family." :)

Bookishrealm says

This was great! I loved the exploration of all the families. The art work was amazing. It was a combination of photographs as the background and then illustrated characters in the foreground. The concept really made reading it all the more entertaining. What I loved most was the sense of humor in the book. You have to pay close attention to all the characters and their facial expressions to understand! Just simply spectacular is all I can say. It was just a great way to look at all the ways people can be families and it doesn't matter what it looks like as long as everyone loves each other.

Kayla Edwards says

This book does a great job of explaining how all families are different yet they have something in common: they love and care for one another. Very sweet and well-handled.

Lauren Waters says

I love the diversity of families shared in this book! My kids were also thrilled by all the different family portraits using animals.

Leona says

finally!! cute and fun book making kids feel good about whatever type of family they have. the illustrations are stellar!! some of the phrasing's a bit clunky but there's not much to recommend in this subject so this has to be at the top of the list.

Sarah Rusk says

Suzanne and Max Lang collaborated on this book to create an engaging text that is relatable to all readers. Suzanne's simple language is easy to understand for all ages, and the straight-forward quality presents the information in a way that is neither argumentative or judgmental. An example of this is when she states, "Some children live with their father. Some children have two mothers." Every statement is accompanied with a "photograph" of the family described. Max Lang incorporated many mediums into this work, utilizing photographs, colored pencil illustrations, magnetic letters, corkboard and push pins, and much more. Each family had their photograph in a frame that was representative of their family. The octopus family had a frame made of shells, the sheep family had a frame made of wool, the ducks frame was on a barn wall with a floor of straw and some eggs. Lang took photographs of the backgrounds for the family photos, but used colored pencil to draw the animals themselves. Children will love to look at the minute details included, like the koala bears' grocery list consisting of eucalyptus leaves and bark, all while learning the message simply stated at the end, "...if you love each other, then you are a family." I would recommend this book as a read aloud for a family unit in a primary classroom, or to support any children who may feel that their family is different than their peers.

Natalia Ruiz says

This book does a great job at addressing diversity with in relationships. Animals are used to describe different families that children may come from and see around them. The animals chosen for each type of family (Divorced, Single Parent, Grandparents, Step-Parents, Aunts, Uncles, 2 Moms, 2 Dads etc.) are randomly selected and display no direct correlation between illustration and type of family being described. The animals chosen are diverse in color, shape and size. They have animals ranging from as large as a hippo to as small as a spider. This is also great for students to recognize that families come in all shapes and sizes.

The gender roles chosen in the book are different. Each family has a variety of both boys and girls who represent the children. There is a clear indication of types of gender suggested in facial features. Most of the animals are not dressed which indicates that just because an animal is wearing pants does not mean it has to be a boy.

The book does not address culture or language. There is no direct assumption that the animals are made to

represent one culture simply because the book is about families. The one thing I will say that the book lacks in is diverse names. Some of the animals are given names (Sue, Lou, Doug etc.) There could have been a wider range in the names chosen. These names tend to correlate more to the American culture. But other wise the book does a great job at emphasizing the diversity that families can have.

Yapha says

Love this book!! Perfect for showing a wide variety of different types of families.
