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What is a Family?

1. What is a family?

The family is a complex system that constantly changes.

2. Identify and define five (5) types of families (be specific).

A) Nuclear Family- husband, wife, children

B) Extended Family- nuclear family+ relatives (aunts, uncles, grandparents, cousins)

C) Single-Parent family- one parents plus children

D) blended family- inclusion of children from a previous relationship into a new joint living situation

E) alternative patterns- homosexual parents, grandparents raising grandchildren

3. Identify and define five (5) functions of the family (be specific).

Families are expected to protect their offspring, ensuring that these children grow to adulthood in the safest environment possible. Families are expected

Families are expected to provide financial and emotional support to their members.

Families are expected to meet the child's other basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing, and affection.

Families are to provide for the child's medical and educational needs.

Families are to interpret the world to the child and the child to the world.

4. What is meant by the statement, "the family is seen as a system".

Families are considered systems because they are made up of interrelated elements or objectives, they exhibit coherent behaviors, they have regular interactions, and they are interdependent on one another.

5. Using words, draw (write/type) your picture of today's family in a minimum three (3) paragraphs.

At the tender age of 2, my mother found herself incapable of raising me and my 6 siblings. Growing up in 12 different foster care homes, living in group homes and now, having an alternative family of my own; my picture of today's family, may look quite differently from someone else who grew up with a different childhood experiences.

The components one may feel are needed to complete a family today can be pretty self-righteous. Thoughts on families and how they should be structured can stem from several different things, for examples traditions and cultures.

Just as the world around us, families and family structure are constantly changing. My personal picture of today's family is Love. A group of people who have decided that they would love and look after each other. Color, sex, or age does not define family in my picture.