

- Family Systems
- Contemporary Living textbook, Chapter 15
- 2-Parent Family
- Married couple and their biological children
- Also called nuclear family
- Sometimes both parents work outside home
- 1/3 of families in America are 2-parent families
- Single-Parent Family
- Result of divorce, separation, death, or having a child out of wedlock
- Growing faster than any other family unit
- Currently 1/8 of all families
- About half of all children born in the 1980's and after will live in a single-parent household sometime during their childhood
- Most do not plan to be single-parents
- Added stress of being sole head of household
- Blended Family
- A major family system in the US
- One of both spouses have been previously married and have one or more children from that marriage
- The couple may or may not add to the family with additional children
- Relationships may be complicated, many people involved
- Extended Kinship Family
- Several generations live together
- May be a mixture of grandparents, parents, children, aunts, uncles, and cousins
- In many cultures this is the norm
- May be a short-term or long-term situation
- May offer needed support, financially and other ways
- Not common in the US
- Foster Family
- Substitute family for children while parents are unable to care for them
- May be short-term or long-term situation
- Children put in foster care for many reasons: parents don't get along, do not properly care for children, abandonment
- Foster families are evaluated and licensed by each states' requirements
- Reimbursement for children's expenses
- Adoptive Family
- Couple become legal guardians of child
- Couples adopt for various reasons: cannot have own children, to 'rescue' a child from a 3rd world country, have been foster parents
- Most prefer newborns and infants
- Adopting older children can be more challenging because of behavioral issues caused by the experiences of the child
- Strong Families
- Communication

- Listen to each other
 - Pay attention to nonverbal communication
 - Respect differences in opinion
- Support one another
 - Respect each other
 - Build-up each other's self-esteem
 - Accept strengths and weaknesses
- Strong Families
- Trust
 - Helps members develop sense of worth
 - Need trust to build security
- Sense of humor
 - Families need a sense of play
 - Laughter helps relieve stress
- Shared responsibility
 - Help the family unit out
 - Recognize individual responsibilities as well
- Strong Families
- Recognize right and wrong
 - Guide children in making appropriate decisions
 - Look at consequences
- Family traditions
 - Uphold long time traditions
 - Create new traditions if needed
 - Respect for culture
- Healthy interactions
 - Respect privacy and sharing
- Strong Families
- Belief system
 - Have a religious or other philosophical foundation
 - Provides stability
- Contributing to community
 - Recognize responsibility to community
 - Want a good place to live and grow
- Family Member Roles
- Given role
 - A role you are born into
 - Being a son or daughter
- Chosen role
 - A role you pick
 - Being a husband or wife
- Roles defined by responsibilities
 - Changing with changing society

- Who's role is it to take care of small children, cook supper, change the oil, fix the fence, bathe the kids, provide money for the family?