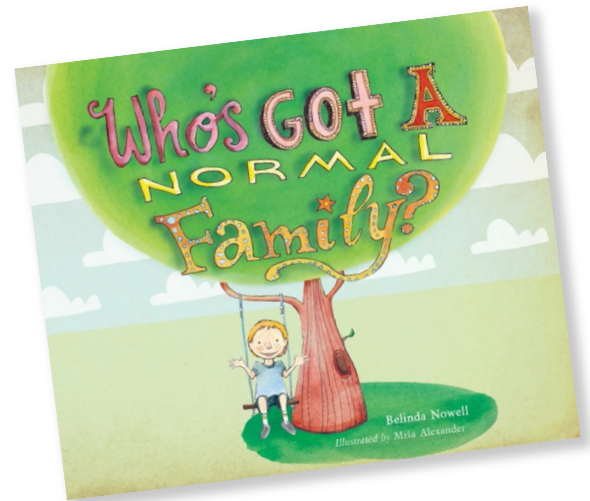


TEACHING NOTES: WHO'S GOT A NORMAL FAMILY?

Written by Belinda Nowell

Illustrated by Miša Alexander

Published by Little Steps Publishing



SYNOPSIS

'Are we normal?' he asked.

Mum gave Alex the brightest smile.

'Absolutely NOT ... but why don't we find out who is?'

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Belinda Nowell is a writer, producer and author of the children's book *Who's Got a Normal Family?* Growing up in Perth, Belinda was a bookworm, a dancer and an actor. These days, she works on the other side of the camera and is passionate about creating and sharing thought-provoking stories.

Belinda now lives on Sydney's northern beaches with her husband, children and the world's most spoiled whippet.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Miša Alexander is Canadian-born, but has lived on the Northern Rivers of New South Wales, Australia, since 1997. She has worked as a graphic designer and illustrator for over 20 years in various studios around Australia, as well as internationally for the United Nations as part of the Electoral Commission in East Timor and Afghanistan. She has always been passionate about children's books and teamed up with Belinda Powell to illustrate her first book, *Who's Got a Normal Family?*

Now a mother of three boys, one of whom is on the Autism Spectrum, she felt inspired by the need for more inclusive schools and communities and co-created and illustrated *Fergus & Delilah*, a children's book changing a generation's view on disabilities.

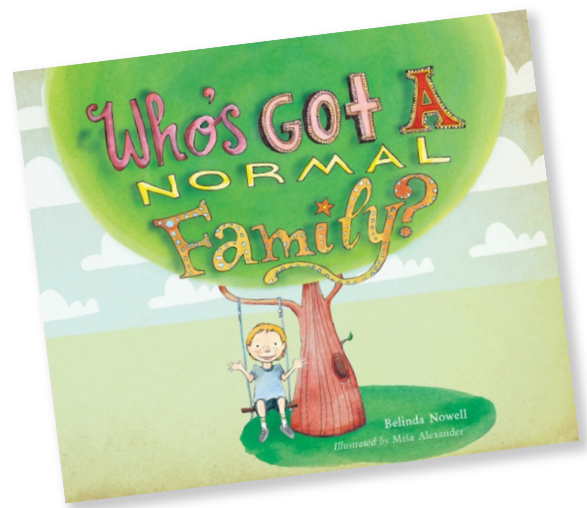


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EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY

Who's Got a Normal Family? is a heart-warming story which celebrates diverse families and encourages children to think about different familial situations and relationships.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Before, during and after reading the book

1. Introduce *Who's Got a Normal Family?* to the children and ask them what they think the story might be about.
2. Ask the children what they think a 'normal family' is?
3. Invite the children to talk about their families. Ask the children if they know anyone (or even themselves) who has a family like any of the characters in the book? Or do they know of any other familial situations?
4. Jimmy Martin is horrible to Alex. Ask the children why they think children are sometimes horrible to other children? Later on in the book, what did Alex find out about Jimmy Martin?
5. Discuss how the children and families in the book are the same.
 - They all look happy.
 - They all play or enjoy a special activity together.
 - The kids all go to the same school and learn the same things in class.
 - They all get to talk about the news.
6. Discuss how the children and families in the book are different.
 - They all have different mums and dads.
 - They all have different brothers and sisters.
 - Some live with other family members, such as grandparents, aunts and uncles.
7. After reading the book, ask them what they thought of the story. Which was their favourite part and why?

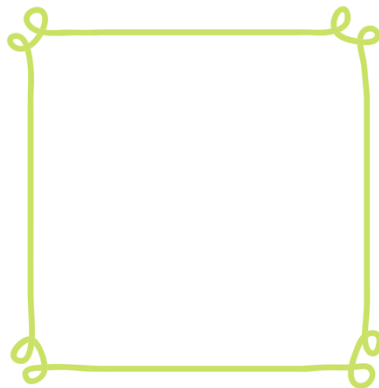
CLASS ACTIVITIES

1. Plot on a map of the world where students' families come from.
2. Create a new character/characters for the book:
 - What are their names?
 - What are their favourite things to do at school?
 - Where do they live?
 - Who do they live with?
 - What games do they play with their family?

FUN
ACTIVITY!

FAMILY TREE ACTIVITY

Write down your family tree. Start with you in the middle and add all your family members.



DRAWING ACTIVITY

Draw a picture of your family.

Draw your family...

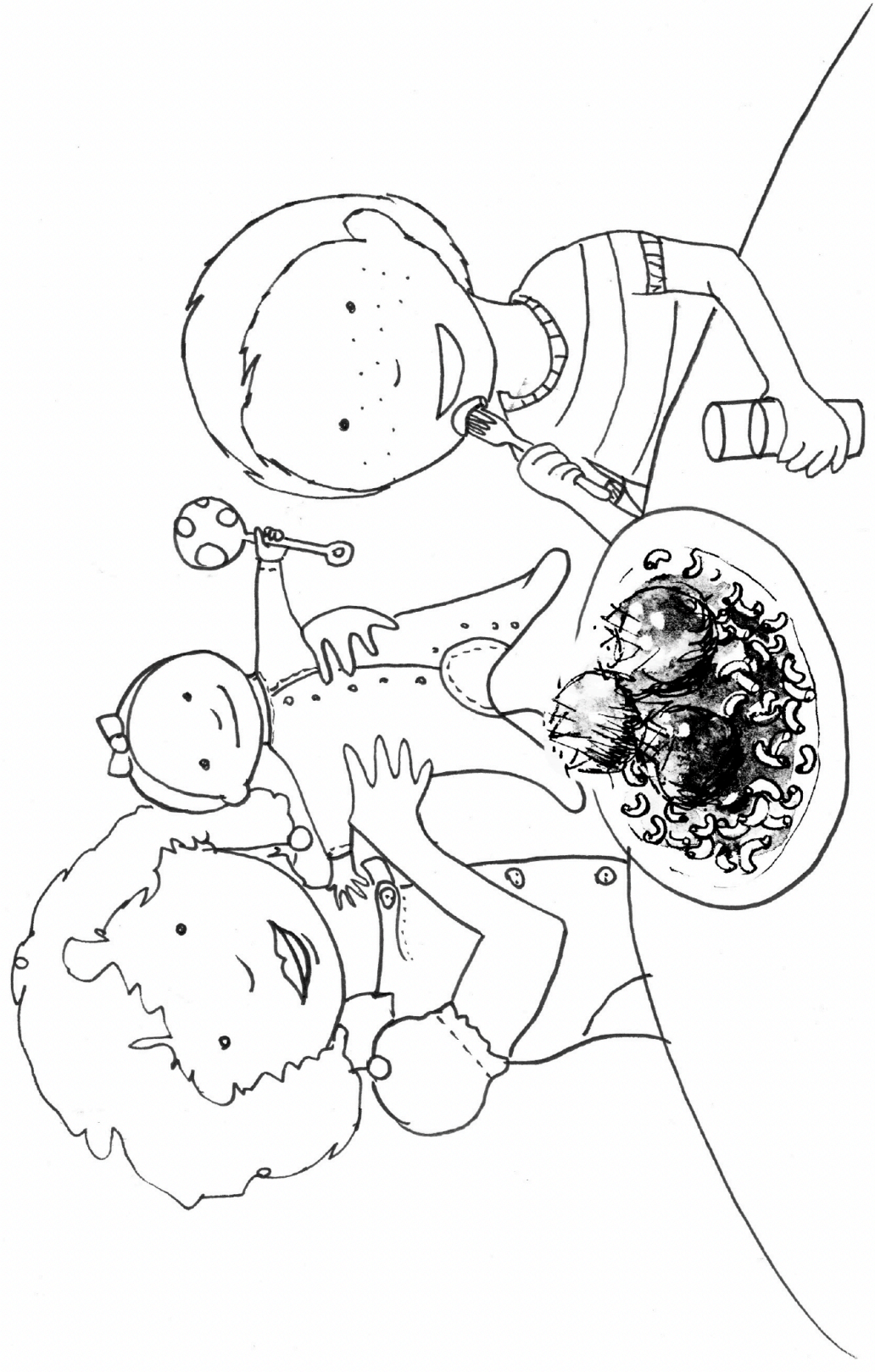
Name:

Age:



COLOURING ACTIVITY

Colour in the picture of Alex, his mummy and baby Emma.



**FUN
ACTIVITY!**

DESIGN A CARD ACTIVITY

Design a card to give to someone in your family to show them how much you care about them! Cut the card out and fold along the dotted line.

Get an adult to help you!



**YOU ARE
FANTASTIC!**