

◇ Chapter 8
Build Family Relationships

Enrichment Activities

FAMILY DECISIONS

A family is a system. Decisions made by one person affect everyone in the family. The decisions you make affect all members of your family.

Directions: Read each of the following situations. Explain how each person's decision might affect other family members.

1. Dana decides to take part in the school play. Rehearsals are scheduled every night just before the holidays. Dana doesn't drive and lives too far from the high school to walk. School buses are not available to transport the students.

2. Seth is in a new band, and he volunteered his house as the place to practice several nights after school and on Sunday afternoons.

3. There is one television in the Barton home. The two older children in the family of six watch sports every Saturday.

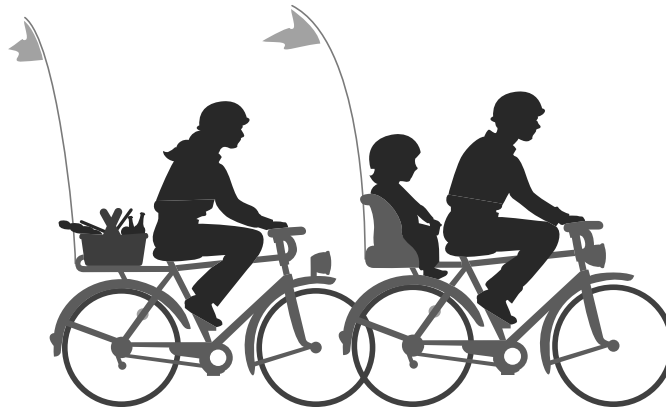
4. Tired of fighting for the phone, Yim decides to use the income from her part-time job to pay for her own private phone line.

5. For a school project, Hakeen decides to videotape his family for a week.

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FAMILY TIME MATTERS



Any relationship that lasts takes work. Face it. It is a fact of life. Your family is the best example of a lasting relationship, because you will be a part of your family forever. In today's fast-paced world, it often seems that everyone in a family is going in a different direction. It's important, however, to make an effort to spend time together. Special times and activities that involve the entire family bring members closer together. Here are some ideas to get you started. What new activities can you think of?

- Cooking with the whole family can be a blast! Make something exotic, like curry, or something fun, like pizza. Make it a theme night, and rent a video to go along with it.
- Go through an entire dinner with everyone changing family roles. Finally, you can pretend to be the dad — or the youngest child. Just remember the responsibilities that go with these roles!
- Play the "Guess Who I Am" game. To play, everyone in the family writes the name of a character from a book, movie, or TV, or a famous person from history on a small piece of paper. Fold the paper and put it in on a plate. Each person in the family draws a name and pins it on a family member's back so he or she can't see it. The idea is to treat each person as though he or she is that character. See who can guess whose name is on his or her back first!

- Ask older family members to tell you stories about when they were young. Ask questions about what they did for fun when they were in school, with friends, or on vacation. If possible, tape record the stories to save for your grandchildren.
- Being out in nature is a good way to have fun together. Make time to go for a long bike ride or nature walk. Some families like to go fishing together. Everyone can enjoy these simple pleasures.
- Rent a video camera and make a home movie, complete with sound effects and a script. Who knows; it could be the start of a career!
- Volunteer together in the community for a day. Whether you are serving a meal or building a house, working together with your family feels very good.

Focus In

It's time for you to think of some fun things to do with your family. Pretend you're the expert on the subject and write down at least five fun things to do. Stick the list on the refrigerator, and then, along with your family, choose one fun thing to do this week. Keep adding to the list.