2007

My family (by Children of Lismore & Goonellabah)

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my family

by children from Lismore & Goonellabah, Northern NSW
Welcome to this unique, local book featuring young children’s pictures and thoughts about their families. We were quite overwhelmed by the response to our invitation for pictures – with about 120 entries received. Unfortunately, we couldn’t fit them all into this book, but every contribution we received was exhibited throughout National Families Week (14–18 May, 2007). We sincerely thank all the children, families and early childhood service providers (Beanies Playgroup, Care Ring, Family Day Care, Friends, Gingerbread House, Goonellabah Preschool, Lismore Preschool, Me & My House and Parish Centre Preschool) who took the time to submit pictures.

As you’ll see, the children’s pictures reflect a heart-warming diversity of family types, events and activities – through their own eyes and voices. The pictures are grouped into seven main themes (immediate family members, extended families, growing families, families with pets, families facing challenges, families at home and families out and about).

We hope you enjoy the pictures as much as we did and that this book provides an opportunity for new conversations between young children and their families. Such an outcome is in keeping with one of our key objectives at the Centre for Children & Young People at Southern Cross University, which is to enhance children’s active participation in their families, schools and communities.

We thank the YWCA for the opportunity to collaborate with them on this project.

Warm regards,

Associate Professor Anne Graham
Director, Centre for Children & Young People
Southern Cross University
Me and my sister, Sabrina, under the rainbow.

(Eloise, aged 4)
This is my family. I love them and kiss them.
(Jai, aged 4)

my immediate family

...featuring individual family members or whole families
This is Dad, Mummy and me.
(Harley, aged 3)

My Dad and my Mum. Me and all my sisters.
(Kiarna, aged 5)
Me with my Mum and Dad.

(Brandi, aged 3)
The grass, and a family of worms. Mum. A rainbow.
And everyone is 4 in this picture.
(Grace, aged 5)
A picture of my family. We are octopuses.

(Kali, aged 3)
Mum and me sharing.
(Leah, aged 4)

Having a photo.
(Fraser, aged 4)
Mackenzie, Mum and Dad. Mum and Dad know I'm there because of my name. (Charlotte)
Me, Tyler, Darcy and Mummy
(Will, aged 4)
extended families

...more family portraits - including grandparents, cousins, aunties or uncles

This my brick house. Inside the door is my cousin, Fraser; big sister, Xanthe; Ashley and me.

(Zane, aged 5)
Nanny Janice, Sarah, Daddy, Poppy, me, Ashleigh and my Mum...

(Gabby, aged 4)
...and Jed, Jacob, Luke, Timothy - my cousins.

(Gabby, aged 4)
Mumma, Mummy, me and Rani. Poppa Ray and Nanny Goat going to work. (Cooper, aged 3½)
Mum, Dad, Nanna, Grace and me.
(Noah, aged 4)

Mummy, Daddy, me and Noah playing.
(Grace, aged 4)
Granma, Muzzie,
Bobby, Mummy, Daddy, me,
Little Brother and Arnie the Bear
(Sophie)
growing families

...featuring brothers and sisters yet to be born

Mummy, Daddy, me, Lily and Sam Jack
(Caitlin, aged 4)
Daddy, Mummy with baby in her belly, and me and my brothers.

(Nekita, aged 5)
Mummy with the baby we haven’t got yet,  
Daddy, me, Grandma and Grandpa.  
(Dylan, aged 3)
Me and Mummy and the baby in Mummy’s tummy going for a walk.
(Caelum, aged 3)
families with pets

...and other animals!

Mummy, Daddy, me, Leah and Holly (our dog).
(Chloe, aged 4)
These are all the people in my family. Our dog, Betty, is very cute and a very fast runner.

(Hunter, aged 4)
This is Mum and me and my Dad. My cat is black with ginger splots all over it. Her name is pizza.

(Majenta, aged 4)
Mum, Dad, Tess and I are playing soccer. Max, my dog, likes to play, too. Max is hot from so much running.

(Blake, aged 5)

My family likes playing with Cassie. She is a pony. We like hopping on the tractor at Poppy’s.

(Elia, aged 4)
Me and Charlie, me and Mummy and a spider.
(Theo, aged 4)
Me playing with my dog, Charlie. I'm saying "Come in, Charlie!" Charlie's Mum is playing, too.
(Mia, aged 4)
families facing challenges

...and how they tackle them

My family is sick.

(Paris, aged 2½)
Mummy is sad because she hurt her finger. Daddy gave her a flower.
(Sarah, aged 5)

This is my Grandmother and she’s holding my baby sister, Brooke. Oma is a bit sad because Opa died of cancer. These are heaven colours and there’s a happy machine working.
(Grace, aged 4)
My Dad is sick in bed with red shoes. He has gloves on. This is me bringing him some medicine. These are flowers for my Dad. This is a balloon. This is a rainbow.

(Gina, aged 4)
families at home

...showing some of the ways families spend their time at home

My family inside our house having our photo taken.

(Danyon, aged 4)
Me and my Mum outside at sunset.
(Bailey, aged 4)
Me, Mummy and Grandma with spiky hair and earrings eating fruit. Daddy is going to do exercises. (Megan, aged 3)

Mum, Daddy and I are playing cards. I like playing “Snap” the best. Mum and Dad like playing “Fish” the best. (Martine, aged 4)
Me and my sister are looking at the flowers.
There is a rainbow in the sky and
it’s a beautiful day.
(Alyssa, aged 4)
Me and Mum getting ready for preschool.
Shirts along the top and shoes along the bottom.

(Bhrendan, aged 4)
Mummy, Daddy, Jake and me and Tilley are sitting down watching telly.

(Elke, age 5)
families out & about
...showing some of the places and activities families enjoy

My Dad smelling the flowers.
(Liti, aged 4)
We are camping at the river - Mum, Dad, me and Molly, swimming in the water; sitting around the fire. My Dad play fights with me. Molly bites me. Mum gives me a kiss. I live at the castle.

(Archer, aged 4)
My family is climbing mountains. I have a big boulder and it’s rolling down the hill. All my family love rainbows. Even Hamish, he’s three.

(Jasmine, aged 4)
Mummy, Daddy, Jacob, Lauren and me.
We are going out to dinner. To Sizzler.
for my sister's birthday.
(Hannah, aged 4)
We are going to church.
(Anya, aged 4)
My family in the car going on holiday.
(Georgia, aged 4)

Nanna, Mum and I are watching a clown at the circus.
(Isabella, aged 4)
My family is playing at the Big Banana.
(Laura, aged 4)
Acknowledgements

This book is the result of a Children’s Art Competition, organised by Southern Cross University’s Centre for Children & Young People, as a contribution towards local activities for 2007’s National Families Week. It was one activity of our Parenting Lismore’s Way strategy of the broader Lismore’s Communities for Children initiative, which is managed by the YWCA, with funding from the Australian Government through the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy.

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Inside back cover ~ My sister, Amber, and I are playing with the fairy cards. Mummy and Daddy are cooking dinner (Selani, aged 4)

Back cover ~ This is my Mummy with colourful hair (Cheyanne, aged 4)