Highly Recommended

Minnesota Sexuality Education Resource Review Panel

Summary of Panel Review

Review Date: January 2003

That's a Family! *(2000)*

Video (35 minutes)
Target audience: Elementary aged children
Cost: $199 for colleges/universities; $75 for community groups/public libraries/high schools; $50 for rental
Available with closed-captioning

Women's Educational Media
New Day Films • 2180 Bryant Street Suite 203, San Francisco CA 94110 • 800-405-3322
www.womedia.org

The Minnesota Sexuality Education Resource Review Panel Highly Recommends the use of this video for the following reasons and with the following reservations:

Review Summary:

"That's A Family" is designed to help elementary school-aged children recognize and appreciate the different types of families that exist today. Children from diverse family structures share their perspectives on what makes a "family". It is not inclusive of all family types, but does include a wide variety of family configurations. Concepts such as "birth mom," "mixed race," "guardian," "gay and lesbian," " adoption," "step-dad," etc. are explained directly by the children in the video. The graphics and video layout are visually appealing and engaging for young audiences.

Panel members found the video to be technically accurate; gender and culturally non-biased; and based on sound educational methodology. They felt it communicated positive messages about sexuality and healthy relationships. The panel found the video to be appropriate for the intended audience, however, recommended breaking it into short segments when using it with lower elementary grades. Although this video is designed especially for children in elementary school, the panel recommended its use for a variety of audiences including parents and other adults.

The panel found the video to be teacher friendly especially given the accompanying discussion/teaching guide that provides ideas for follow-up activities, as well as for teacher preparation prior to showing the video. The panel recommended that schools/community groups gain support/involvement from parents and school/community leaders prior to using the video. The discussion guide includes suggestions for how to involve parents/guardians, a sample letter to send home, and answers to some common questions educators or parents may ask. The panel

stressed that teachers should be prepared to respond to feedback about inclusion of some controversial topics (e.g., same-sex and mixed-race families) and be familiar with resources related to these issues.

That's A Family! *(2000)*
Women's Educational Media

Review Criteria

	Mean Score
1. Technically accurate and up-to-date	4.9
2. Gender Fair	5.0
3. Sexuality Positive	5.0
4. Developmentally appropriate for age	4.8
5. Racially, ethnically, culturally non-biased	5.0
6. Sound educational methodology	4.9
7. Educational messages/strategies provided for learners at all points of risk continuum	3.8
8. Addresses the needs of all learners, including those with physical, cognitive or emotional disabilities.	3.9
9. Teacher-friendly	4.7

Scoring is based on a 5 point Likert scale, from poor (1) to excellent (5). The mean (average) is based on the assessments of the panel members who were present to review the material 1/28/03.

Panel Recommendations for Appropriate Audiences

Assessment Criteria			
Overall Recommendation	**Recommend highly** 15	**Recommend** 0	**Reject** 0
Audience For what audience is this resource appropriate?	**Audience targeted by the resource** 12	**Other audience(s)** 3	**Not Appropriate for any audience** 0
Facilitation Skills Required How knowledgeable and skilled must the facilitator be to use this resource effectively?	**Requires leader with strong content knowledge and group skills** 7	**Requires leader with moderate content knowledge and group skills** 8	**Requires leader with little content knowledge and group skills** 0
Multicultural Perspective Does this resource address the needs of communities of color; and/or issues of sexual orientation, gender, and disability	**Resource is culturally specific.** 1	**Resource is Multicultural/ Inclusive** 14	**Resource does not address the needs/issues of diverse populations** 0