



Happy Families

This is a simple inheritance game. It shows how children receive characteristic features from their parents. Will they get their mum's blue eyes or their dad's brown eyes? Will they be tall like their dad? Have they got their mum's nose? Can you tell who the parents of a child are from the child's features?

Teachers' notes

No prior knowledge is required for this game. The inheritance of features has been simplified for the purposes of this game.

There should be no assumption that single genes are responsible for the characteristics considered in this game, nor that any features are inherited in the simple way they are described.

It is a fun game, very much "tongue in cheek" playing on outrageous stereotypes from our busty page 3 model to our hunky plumber. No offence is intended, but if you prefer you can leave out the Profile Cards and you can use alternative scenarios rather than the ones given here.

You will need sets of the **Happy Families Templates & Cards** to play the game. Ideally one set between two players.

A worked example is given in the Templates & Cards to show how the children inherit the features of the parents. Essentially, there is an equal chance, a 50:50 chance of the children inheriting a feature from mum or dad, much the same as we inherit genes from our parents. The only feature that is represented differently is Brain Power, this is numerical and so the children inherit the average of the parents' scores. This is not meant to represent how intelligence is inherited.

Answers are given below along with the scenarios that can be used. To see all combinations of females and males and their offspring see **Happy Families: Children – Females & Partners Answers**. They are organised in 4 sets based on the female (mum).

Players' notes

You will need the cards found in **Happy Families Templates & Cards** to play the game. Ideally one set between two players. There are 3 sets of cards

- 1) A set of Females (4 cards)
- 2) A set of Males (4 cards)
- 3) A set of Children (16 cards)

(These are in pairs of a boy and a girl, they can be considered together as brother and sister, or individually)

There is also a master set of answers (**Happy Families: Children – Females & Partners Answers**) that can be used to check your answers against and a set of Blank Cards for “working out” your answers or making up your own families.

How to play

How often have you heard “You look just like your mum?” or “He has his dad’s eyes, but his nose is definitely his mum’s”. We can often spot family resemblances, being able to place brothers, sisters, mums, dads, grandparents and sometimes aunts and uncles into families. We do this by recognising similar features, distinctive characteristics within families. This may be the shape of a nose or ears, the colour of hair and eyes and often the combination of a number of features that has been passed on, inherited, within families. In this game you are going to look at a series of features that are inherited. These are: **Eye Colour; Hair Colour and Appearance; Nose Size; Lip Shape; Height and Brain Power.**

For the purposes of this game the first five features are simply inherited, with the feature coming from either the mum or the dad. E.g. If the mum has blue eyes and the dad has green eyes the child could have blue or green eyes.

While the feature **Brain Power** has been given a numerical value. The child’s brain power is the result of adding the brain power values of the two parents together and then halving it. E.g. If the mum has a brain power value of 3 and the dad has a brain power value of 2, then the child’s brain power value would be 2.5 ($3+2 = 5$, and half of $5 = 2.5$)

An illustration of this is given in the **Happy Families Templates & Cards**

Different games to play

Who is the Father of the baby?

You (teacher), or a non-player, should select one of the females and a set of her children (brother and sister). You then can ask the players to identify the father. A set of suggested scenarios with appropriate card numbers are given to go with this. If you wish to select your own you can go to the **Happy Families: Children - Females & Partners Answers**

Happy Family

Select one of the children cards, ask the players to identify the parents of the brother and sister? A set of suggested scenarios are given to go with this.

More Children

You can use the Blank Cards to make up your own Females and Males. What do their children look like?

Who is the Father of the baby?

Some suggested scenarios.

1. Lovely Bubbly Busty Brenda, the Nations most popular page 3 model who gave birth to a beautiful baby girl just a few years ago, still refuses to reveal the father's identity. It is too soon to tell whether the lovely daughter has inherited the most famous of her mother's features. However, there are rumours that she is back together with her ex-boyfriend Speedy Steve the racing driver and that she is expecting a second baby. Steve hotly denies that he is the father.

Select the children's Card 13

Do you think Steve is the father? Is he telling the truth or "porky pies"?

[Steve is the father](#)

Select the children's Card 9

Brenda was expecting a second child. She went on to have a boy. Who do you think the father was?

[Hank is the father](#)

2. The Commercial world and the City are making wild speculations and it is not whether shares will go up or down. No they are all speculating who the father is of Lavinia's twins. A double whammy for the Director of Paint pots cosmetics. I bet she wished her company assets would double overnight. But luscious lips Lavinia is keeping very tight lipped about the identity of the father.

Select the children's Card 8

An unknown plumber, called Hank has sold his story to the Newspapers. He says he was fixing the plumbing at Lavinia's Country retreat and that he had a fling with her. He claims that the twins must be his. Are they his children or was Lavinia two timing her plumber?

[She was two timing the plumber, Tony is the father](#)

3. The Famous film producer "One shot" Carol is creating a bit of drama of her own and the suspense is killing the public. It has been revealed that she has a son from her early wild years in film.

Select the children's Card 1

Can you work out who the father is?

[Curtis is the father](#)

4. Super Model Leggy Layla's marriage is looking very shaky. Her husband Tony, the up and coming singer, has accused her of tricking him into marriage. He claims that the daughter she says was his, is not in fact his child.

Select children's Card 4

Is Tony the father? Will he have to eat his words?

[Yes, Tony is the father](#)

5. Clean cut Curtis is not looking so squeaky clean these days. After retiring from a career as a children's TV presenter lots of rumours are coming out of the woodwork, and no amount of sticky tape are going to keep them in. Two girls have claimed that he is their father.

Select children's Cards 7 and 6

Can he be the father?

Do you know who the mother's are?

[Curtis is the father of both girls](#)

[Girl 7, Mother is Layla](#)

[Girl 6, Mother is Lavinia](#)

6. Lavinia is leaving the corporate world to spend some time with her teenage daughter. She is being joined by her former plumber Hank. The gossips are speculating he might be the father, or is he just the new boyfriend?

Select children's Card 11

[Hank is the father](#)

Happy Family

Some suggested scenarios and games. You can of course make up your own

1. The two couples Lavinia and Steve, and Brenda and Hank both had sets of twins at the same time in a famous London Maternity hospital. They are convinced that they have the wrong set of children, but the hospital assures them that they cannot have made a mistake.

Lavinia and Steve have the set shown on the Children's Card 9
Brenda and Hank have the set shown on the Children's Card 14

Do they have the right children?

[No, they were swapped](#)

2. Tony has made it to stardom but is being pursued by a number of women who claim that they have had his children.

Layla and her daughter, shown on Children's Card 2, claim that she looks so like her father.

Carol and her daughter, shown on Children's Card 5, claim that she also looks just like her father.

Are any of them Tony's daughters?

[Card 2, Layla's daughter is not Tony's child, her father is Hank](#)

[Card 5, Carol's daughter is Tony's child](#)

3. For each set of children work out who the parents are.

[Check your answers in:](#)

Happy Families: Children - Females & Partners Answers

4. Select a set of parents and work out the total number of their children with different appearances. Don't consider boys and girls separately. See the answer sheet if you get stuck. Identify the children's card included in this game.

Answer sheet for Happy Family game 4:

There are 5 features that affect the appearance of a child.

These are:

Eye colour, Hair, Nose size, Lip shape and Height

A child may inherit this feature from either their mum or their dad. If we use the number 1 to indicate that the child has inherited the feature from their mum, and number 2 to indicate that the feature came from their dad. Then we can list all the possible combination of features from a couple like this:

	Child1	C. 2	C. 3	C.4	C.5	C.6	C.7	C.8	C.9
Eye	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
Hair	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
Nose	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
Lips	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	2
Height	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
	C.10	C.11	C.12	C.13	C.14	C.15	C.16	C.17	C.18
Eye	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	2
Hair	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	1
Nose	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	2
Lips	2	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	1
Height	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	2

Obviously if the parents share a feature then this will reduce the number of children with different appearances.

This is just considering a "child" not whether it is male or female, so technically if you include this as a feature you get all of the combinations for a boy and all of the combinations for a girl.