

Dear Parents,

Welcome to *Open Day 1 Home Connection*. This is another way for you to be more involved in your child's learning. It's full of simple and fun ideas that you can do at home with your child. The support you give your child at home will ensure his or her success at school.

Each level of *Open Day* has four topics. The first topic in *Open Day 1* is called **Friends and Family**. In this topic, your child will learn how to talk about his or her friends (their name, age, favourite colour, etc.) and to describe family members. The **Topic Preview Activity** is a great opportunity for you to show your child that you are interested in what he or she is learning in the English class.

In each level, *Open Day* features an animal that is or has been endangered. In Level 1, the featured animal is the honeybee. Did you know that in some places more than 90 percent of bees have disappeared in the last fifteen years? They need our help to survive. The bees appear in the *Good Buddies* comic strip in the Student's Book and have associated **Animal Activities** in *Home Connection*. In Topic 1 of *Open Day 1*, your child will meet the human characters Eva, Alex and Tom as they welcome Kim, who is new to their school. Your child will also meet the bee characters.

Open Day teaches your child more than just English. In the **Mindfulness** section, your child will learn to focus on the present moment. This will help him or her to concentrate and to manage his or her emotions. It also increases his or her self-esteem. In Topic 1 of *Open Day 1*, your child will learn how to sit properly and recognise how this affects his or her general well-being. The **Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL)** section helps your child make links with other subjects through English. This section focuses on different subjects your child studies at school and teaches him or her something new about that subject using English. In Topic 1 of *Open Day 1*, your child will look at geography and different families around the world. The **Citizenship** section focuses on your child's relationships with other people, and here he or she will learn the value of respecting others in class.

The **Closing Activity** is a way of summarising the theme of the topic. For Topic 1 of *Open Day 1*, you will help your child make a family rainbow. In this way, your child thinks about family members and his or her relationships with them.

You don't have to do the activities all at once. We recommend that you try each of the activities after your child has completed the corresponding sections in their Student's Book or Practice Book. The corresponding Student's Book pages are indicated in each section. We hope you will enjoy taking this active role in your child's learning.



Topic Preview Activity Student's Book pages 12–13

Friends and Family

Good friends and a loving family help your child be happy and confident. Spending quality time with friends and family is important. Here's an idea to introduce the topic while having your own quality family time.

◆ Get Ready

Part 1

Talk about your child's friends. Ask: *What are your friends' names? Are they in your class? Do you see them outside school? What do you like doing together?* There is no need to ask too many questions, but if your child is interested, he or she could describe one of his or her friends and say why he or she is friendly.

Part 2

Look at some family photos together. These can be of close or extended family. Use your phones, computers or even a family album. If you don't have many photos, you can still talk about family members. Ask: *Where do they live? When do you see them? What do you like doing together?*

◆ Make a TIFFY Jar (Time for my Friends and Family)

Write some ideas for activities you could do together on a piece of paper. For example, *watch a film* or *have a picnic in the park*. Then put the papers with the ideas into a jar. But don't forget about them! Once every couple of weeks, have your child close his or her eyes and take a piece of paper from the jar, then make a plan to do that activity with your family and your child's friends.

Animal Activity Unit 1 Student's Book pages 16–17

◆ Get Ready

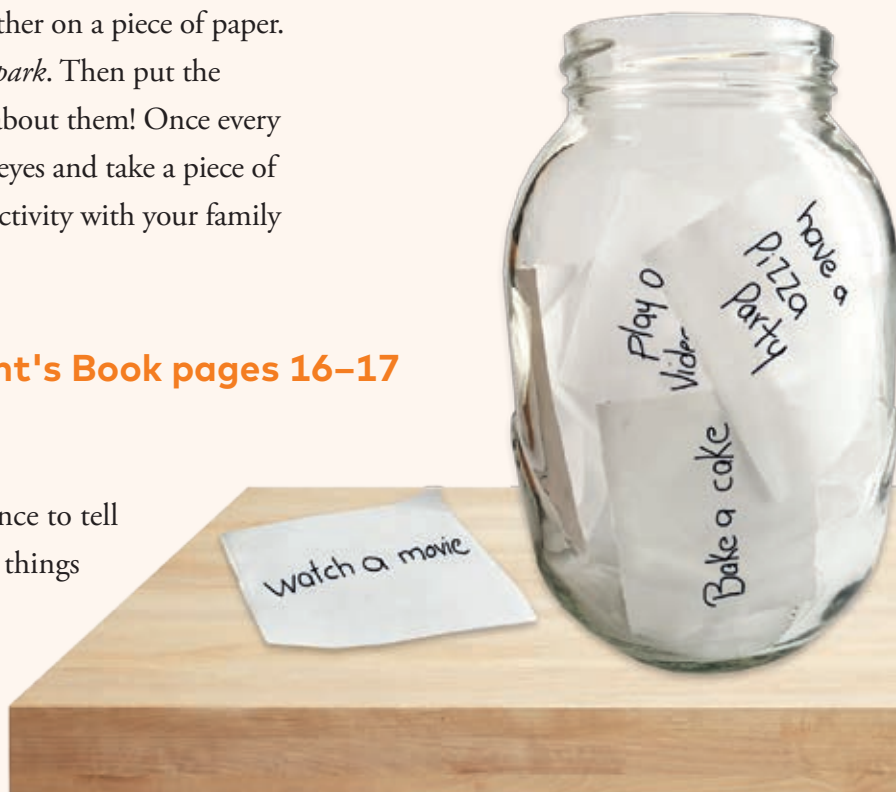
Did you know bees can communicate? They dance to tell other bees where nectar is. Tell your child other things you know about bees.

◆ Do a Bee Dance

Here's a video showing children doing the bee dance:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jYNaHbo8Uqw>

After you watch the video, why don't you do the dance with your child? You can record a video and share it with other people in your family. Everyone is bound to have a bit of fun!



Mindfulness Student's Book page 20

◆ Get Ready

This topic's mindfulness focus is mindful body. The idea is for your child to be aware of the differences between sitting in a good and bad position.

Watch the video below to check the differences between good and bad posture:

<https://youtu.be/rR-19hIBUSg>

◆ Play a Posture Game

Try playing a posture game for one week. Every time your child sees you sitting badly, they give you one point. You give them one point if they sit badly. The person with the fewest points at the end of the week is the winner and gets a prize! Have fun!

Animal Activity Unit 2 Student's Book pages 30–31

◆ Get Ready

For this activity you will need paper, scissors, glue, yellow and black paint and a black marker pen. Once you have the materials, invite some family members to sit around a table.

◆ Make a Bee Handprint

Make a handprint for each member of your family. Start by tracing everyone's handprints on the piece of paper. When you've done that, help your child draw a circle at the end of each palm. Then help him or her paint the circle yellow and paint the handprints with black and yellow strips. Then use a black marker pen to draw eyes and a mouth inside the yellow circle and wings above the handprint. Finally, help your child cut out the handprints and hang them around a window. Count how many bees are in your family. What do bees do and why are they important?



Did you know that bees are social animals and live in "family units" composed of a queen bee, drones and worker bees? There are up to 50, 000 bees in some bee "families"!



◆ Get Ready

All families are different. Some are big and some are small. Some are from the same place as you and others come from places far away. Your child will love you showing interest in his or her friends' families and also learning about your friends.

For this activity you will need a map of the world, pieces of coloured paper, small sticks, glue and some pens or pencils. First, ask your child about his or her friends' families: *How many brothers or sisters have your friends got? Are they from here? If not, where are they from?* Then tell your child about one of your friends who comes from a different country or city.

◆ Make a Friends and Families Map

Tell your child to choose one of his or her friends. Help him or her make and colour a flag for the friend's family: a small flag if the family is small and a big one if it is big. Have your child write some members of the family if he

or she knows them. Then have your child do the same for your friend. When he or she finishes, take a map of the world. Point out the country where you live and have your child place the flag for his or her friend's family on the map. Then find the city or country where your friend lives and have your child place the flag for that family.



Citizenship Student's Book page 38

◆ Get Ready

Respecting other people is a basic value and having rules is an important part of this.

For this activity you will need a piece of card and some coloured pens or crayons and scissors. Once you have the materials, start by telling your child you are going to do an activity about rules at home. Ask: *Why do you think we have got rules? What other rules could we have for home?* Encourage your child to think of positive rules. (Say "Thank you"; Be polite.)

◆ Make a Rules Sign

Once your child has suggested some rules, help him or her cut the card into a shape he or she likes (a circle, a square or a rectangle) and ask him or her to choose one

of those rules to draw and colour a picture that represents the rule. Hang it in a place where everybody in the family can see it. Ask your child to tell everyone in the family about the rule and to tell them why it's important.



A Family Rainbow

A family rainbow is a way for your child to show his or her ties to the other members of your family.

◆ Get Ready

For this activity you will need a large sheet of paper, a pencil, rubber and some coloured pens, paint or crayons. If you want, you can also stick photos of different people in the family using scissors and glue.

Talk about your family members and how you are important to each other. Then ask: *Who do you want to include in your rainbow?* Don't limit this to only close family. Let your child include as many members as he or she wishes.

◆ Make a Family Rainbow

To make the rainbow, first have your child draw himself or herself on one side of the sheet of paper. You can also cut out a big photo of your child and stick it on the paper. Draw the family members your child wants to include on the other side of the paper. Again, as an alternative, you can cut out and glue photos of the family members. Now tell your child to use his or her favourite colours to draw colourful lines from him or herself to the different family members. If you want, you can decorate the rainbow with glitter, coloured pens, crayons or paint. As a final step, write the title "My Family Rainbow" on the paper and hang it up somewhere special in your home.

Finally, congratulate each other on your great work! Remember to show your love and appreciation.

My Family Rainbow

