

Family-Inclusive LANGUAGE

avoid	why?	instead
<p>“parents” “mom” “dad” “mom and dad”</p>	<p>Not everyone accompanying a child is a parent. Grandparents, step-parents, and nannies may not identify as parents.</p> <p>Not all children have a mom and dad.</p>	<p>“grownup” “adult” “caregiver”</p>
<p>“son” “daughter”</p>	<p>The children in someone’s care could be grandchildren, nieces, nephews, godchildren, etc.</p> <p>You may also not want to assume the gender of a child.</p>	<p>“children”</p>
<p>“extended family”</p>	<p>The term is usually meant to include grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins but for folks of many cultures this isn’t “extended” family—it’s just family</p>	<p>“family”</p>
<p>“family resemblance”</p>	<p>We’re conditioned to look for similar features in family members so you may see resemblance where there is none. Many families include step-parents, adoptive parents, or parents who conceived with donated eggs or sperm.</p> <p>Inversely, don’t assume that a child who doesn’t look like their caregiver is adopted—many multi-racial children resemble one parent more than the other.</p>	<p>keep it to yourself</p>
<p>“members of a household”</p>	<p>Families don’t always live together. For example, families with divorced parents or incarcerated parents.</p>	<p>“family members”</p>

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