

9. The family that worships together works!

The family that goes together to a place of worship and acknowledges that there is a power greater than us all and mixes with other people is a family that will work together well.

10. The family that gives, grows!

An old proverb says “Charity begins at home”. Generosity is a rare quality within modern society. You can reverse the trend! Give to your favourite charities. Get involved as a volunteer. The family that learns the warmth of sharing blessings with other people is rich beyond compare.



Compiled and modified from several sources and issued as a community service by Lindsey & Elizabeth Timms

Stay Cool!



Ten Tips to have a cool family!

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1. **The family that plays together stays together!** Home is a place to have a good time – for the members of the family to laugh and play and enjoy each other. Swap new jokes – or old ones if you can stand it! Play guessing games; dominoes; table tennis; have a movie night at home; go out for a special night to the movies; go shopping; go fishing; go out and watch a sporting game instead of watching on TV.

2. **Celebrate special days!** Birthdays and anniversaries and special events such as end of the school year or a graduation are all reasons to have a special family celebration. Go out to a café or restaurant or stay home and have a special time. Simple things can be so effective – candles on the table; flowers from the garden; little homemade presents.



3. **Show and Tell!** Why should show and tell be only at school? Make a time each day – probably around the evening meal – where each member reports on the day and shares something special – something happy or sad or funny or a prob-

lem. Family togetherness grows as we share the things that come each day. Have you tried a Family Council? It's a great way to talk over problems; iron out squabbles or plan a special event.

4. **Sing Together!** We are a generation of listeners not singers. It is so much fun to sing together. You can buy books of words at any music store for a small cost. If someone can strum a few chords on a guitar – even better.

5. **Work together!** Cleaning grandma's house, working in the yard, painting a wall, washing the car – when done together – can create wonderful moments of fellowship.

6. **Understand each other!** Give each other room. Dad may be worried about business or

the income tax return. Mum may be worried about Gran's health. Bill may be worried about his Year 12 exams. If we watch, listen, ponder and care – we can understand and help each other.

7. **Invite people to your home!** We complain that today's society is no longer a 'community'. Well, do something about it! Invite friends or neighbours for a BBQ. Have them in for coffee. Hot popcorn is easy to make and a great favourite. Is there a new family from another country near you? Invite them in – realise that they will feel as strange as you do! All this gives a glow to living and opens the windows of the home to all the world.

8. **The family that prays together stays together!** In bygone days each family would pause for a few moments to read a little from the Bible and pray. At the very least they would bow before a meal and say 'grace'. These practices deepened home life gave courage and strength and quieted jumpy nerves. Here is a simple one – *“For what we are about to receive, dear Lord, make us truly thankful. Give us your guidance through the affairs of this day, and at its close – your peace. Amen.”*