



EARLY YEARS

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The wonder of being special and unique

AIM To explore the wonder of being special and unique

KEY WORDS God, wonder, love, hands, fingers, nails, faces, noses, lips, ears, hair, features, colour, shape, size, unique, belonging, different, special, womb, describe, friends, generous, worried, Baptism.

KEY SKILLS Listening, sharing, speaking, respecting, observing, praying, relating, celebrating, and creating.

■ Social and Emotional

Learning intention To recognise the joy of being a special person in my family.

Introduction and content

The family is often referred to as a 'school of love' where children grow and experience the joy, wonder and beauty of loving and being loved. Pope Francis in *Amoris Laetitia* ('The Joy of Love'), offers a refreshing vision of the joy and meaning of love, marriage and family; he affirms that children have a natural right to a father and mother and, in speaking of the meaning of being a child, he says:

"Children, once born, begin to receive, along with nourishment and care, the spiritual gift of knowing with certainty that they are loved. This love is shown to them through the gift of their personal name, the sharing of language, looks of love and the brightness of a smile. In this way, they learn that the beauty of human relationships touches our soul, seeks our freedom, accepts the difference of others, recognises and respects them as a partner in dialogue... Such is love, and it contains a spark of God's love!"

<http://theconversation.com/pope-francis-and-the-joy-of-love-in-a-merciful-church-57554>