Non-traditional Families
We asked our students who lives in their house with them. We got various answers such as single mom, single dad, grandparents, step parents, and both of their biological parents. We wanted to compare these results with children who struggle academically and behaviorally and see if there was any correlation.
Who Lives In Your House With You?

- Mom & Dad
- Grandparents
- Single Parent
- Biological Parent & Step Parent
Children who live with a single parent

- 3/5 struggle academically
- 2/5 have IEPs
- 2/5 need a lot of attention
- 2/5 constantly want hugs
- 1/5 has extreme anger issues
- 2/5 get pulled for resource
- 2/5 are very bright

- I discovered that these kids are affected more behaviorally than academically
Grandparents

- The child who lives with his grandparents is very well-mannered.
- He needs CONSTANT attention.
- Very bright.
- Major anger issues.
- I found again that he is affected more behaviorally than academically.
Biological Parent & Step Parent

• One of the students is an average student and on grade level.
• She is well-behaved but can be very lazy.
• The other student is below a kindergarten level, has an IEP, and gets pulled for resource twice a day.
Both Biological Parents

- 1/5 has a bad attitude
- One has an IEP
- One is mentally ill
- 2/5 are where they should be behaviorally and academically.
I learned that even though all of the students in every category have issues, the only category where we had any students who were doing well behaviorally and academically were in the category of living with both biological parents.
There are exceptions to the rule and it isn’t the case in every situation.
Personal Experience

I didn’t grow up living with both of my parents. I live with my mom and I feel like behaviorally and academically I have done a good job. It is more of an emotional effect on me but I was able to control my emotions. Some of these students are affected emotionally, which causes them to act out and be disrespectful.
Just because a child is from a non-traditional family doesn’t mean that they aren’t loved and don’t come from a great home.
I asked a student from each group to draw a picture of their family and they all asked, “The people who live with me or my whole family?”

One said, “My dad doesn’t live with me but do I still draw him?”
## What Do I Control?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITUATIONS THAT CREATE SADNESS</th>
<th>I CAN CONTROL</th>
<th>I CAN'T CONTROL</th>
<th>WAYS TO MANAGE OR CHANGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>not living with my sister</td>
<td></td>
<td>red</td>
<td>Watch TV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not seeing mom</td>
<td></td>
<td>red</td>
<td>talk to nano</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear Sister,

I really miss you. Witch one is your favorite. I feel sad when I don't get to see you. Can we talk on the phone? I miss you because I don't get to see you that much.

B.K.

Grandparents
Single Dad
Single Mom
Who Lives In Your House With You?

- Parents Living Together: 16
- Divorced: 6
- Only Mom: 5
- Grandparents: 2
Jacob & Catalina
Who Helps You With Your Homework?

- Nobody: 4
- Mom: 12
- Grandma: 2
- Sibling: 3
- Dad: 3
- Grandpa: 1
Websites

- [https://my.vanderbilt.edu/developmentalpsychologyblog/2013/12/is-a-non-traditional-family-structure-completely-doomed-for-failure-how-you-can-make-sure-your-child-thrives-despite-the-odds/](https://my.vanderbilt.edu/developmentalpsychologyblog/2013/12/is-a-non-traditional-family-structure-completely-doomed-for-failure-how-you-can-make-sure-your-child-thrives-despite-the-odds/)
Books

- Dear Child by John Farrell
- The Family Book by Todd Parr
- Fred Stays With Me! By Nancy Coffelt
- On Mother’s Lap by Ann Herbert
- Heather Has Two Mommies by Leslea Newman
• *Dear Child* by John Farrell
• *Knock Knock: My Dad’s Dream for Me* by Daniel Beaty
• *A Tale of Two Daddies* by Vanita Oelschiager
• *All Kinds of Families* by Mary Ann Hoberman