

# Prep Year History

## Exploring my family history

### Preparing

#### Transcript of video 1 of 5

This video is available from [www.qsa.qld.edu.au/27216.html](http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/27216.html)

*Exploring my family history* is available from [www.qsa.qld.edu.au/25885.html](http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/25885.html)

#### Interview

##### *Establishing the context*

Maree Frederiksen:

Prep teacher

This year, because History was new to Prep, we had to think as a team about how we were going to introduce it and contextualise it for the children. So we decided that we would use the travel buddies that, in previous years, we've used to introduce social skills as a way to contextualise the history.

[A Prep teacher shows the class the travel buddies letter and introduces the travel buddies Annie and Jake.]

In the second week of school the children received a letter from Annie and Jake, the travel buddies. After a week of letter writing, Annie and Jake arrived in our classroom and the children were very excited to discover that Annie and Jake were going to be going home for sleepovers with the children to explore their families and their family history.

## Interview

### *Talking about family histories*

**Maree Frederiksen:** Annie and Jake each had a copy of their own family tree and their own family living graphic and in the classroom we explored those family dynamics of Annie and Jake and this was used as a stepping off point for the rest of the children. The family history journal went home with Annie and Jake and parents were able to work with their children at home to explore their family and their family living situation.

Prep teacher

[The Prep teacher demonstrates the family history journal and asks questions about the people in the journal.]

All right, Preps, when you take home Annie and Jake for the sleepover, you're going to be taking home a family history journal. Inside the first page, there is a letter for you to show to your grown-ups at home and that will explain exactly what you have to do when you take Annie and Jake home. I wanted to show you Annie and Jake's family tree and family history. So if we have a look here, this is Jake's family tree. So this is Jake's daddy and his mummy. Can you notice something interesting here? What do you see, Owen?

**Owen:** He has a sister.

Prep child:

**Maree:** He has a sister, not just an ordinary sister, Jake has a twin sister. So that's Jake's family tree. His mummy and his daddy, and he has a twin sister. Now, if we look over here at his family living, Jake's mummy and daddy don't live in the same house. So here we can see Jake's mummy's house and we can see Jake with his sister and then over here, we can see Jake's daddy's house and we can see Jake with his sister. So sometimes, he lives in his mummy's house and sometimes he lives in his daddy's house.

## Interview

### *Gathering information about family histories*

**Siobhan:** Owen had a great opportunity to take Jack, his travel buddy home, to talk about history and his family history. Basically, we plopped Jack on the table and gave Owen the opportunity to tell Jack his story and though he was given a book and the book obviously had examples of a variety of family dynamics and we used that as a, I suppose, a stepping stone to discuss what our family looked like.

Mother

In the book it showed, you know, a typical family, you know, you have your mum and dad and kids, but also showed a different relationship where maybe sole parents or separated parents or some, you know, you might have two mums and two dads and so you've got a much more complex dynamic. That's almost the norm now in Australian society. For Owen then to be exposed to that and to realise that it's not just one way of having a family.