

# DEFINING FAMILY & ITS FUNCTION:

## ∞FAMILY∞

For the purpose of training, a family is anyone who is the caregiver of a child whether or not there is a blood or a legal relationship, or formalized or informal adoptive or foster care; a family is to be understood in the broadest context.

## ∞FAMILY FUNCTIONS∞

The influences and importance of the family for children cannot be overestimated:

- ✘ The family is the child's first source of information and the primary model for how children experience relationships.
- ✘ The family helps a child to begin to communicate and to learn personal and cultural values and beliefs.
- ✘ The family teaches the child how to survive in a complex world.
- ✘ The family provides a child with a sense of belonging and a foundation for self-esteem.

Source: *Cultural Competence Train-the-Trainers Manual*, Pennsylvania CASSP Training and Technical Assistance Institute, September 1995.