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Benefits of Multigenerational Family Living

Rebecca Klein assures that “16 percent of the total U.S. population [lives] in a family household that [contains] at least two adult generations or a grandparent and at least one other generation” (*How Generations Can Thrive*). This statistic indicates a growing dynamic that has raised awareness among such families. Many outside influences of America’s society has positively advertised advantages of living in a multigenerational family household. It has been suggested that in order to live successfully as a multigenerational family, such a family should assign roles within the dynamic, rely on each other, and learn how to trust and respect one another overall.

Restated by Robyn G. Lawrence, with about 54 million Americans living in multigenerational households (*Full House: A Guide*), the creators of the movie *The Croods* appeal to this intended audience with featured family’s efforts of achieving the greatest of challenges together of their time. In media, multigenerational families have been portrayed dealing with difficult challenges, but then work together in order to reach an ideal solution. Writers and producers of such films and other forms of visual entertainment, are given an additional and very different type of audience to appeal to with such a large range of 54 million Americans. Large families go through many difficult situations, so presenting positive outcomes creates a good feeling and optimistic change in society. These benefits are welcomed and supported throughout multigenerational family dynamics.

In order for a family with such a large age range to live in a content environment, a system has to be established, which can be shown through the first movie scene of *The Croods*. The father of the Croods family, initiates the retrieval of the egg in order for his family to eat. Klein asserts “owners of the home tend to have the stronger position of control” (*How Generations Can Thrive*), which is illustrated by the strong authority of the father. Having that higher sense of authority provides a leader that can mainly facilitate a large dynamic of such a family. Not only should there be a sense of leadership, every family should have their own role established in order to reduce chaos; such as who is in charge of cutting the grass and who is supposed to take the children to school. Lawrence believes “established routines should be respected” (*Full House: A Guide*) within a multigenerational family dynamic.

Every family member has their assigned role in the movie scene that helps run the process of accomplishing the task at hand. The presentation of their set roles concludes that they have been through a similar situation as a family before. This hinted routine claims that there is a stable system created by the family. Klein claimed “consistency will help minimize the inevitable disruptions” (*How Generations Can Thrive*) created, especially when it comes to fighting one’s life against irrational animals. There is an importance to having assigned roles within a family because it helps run life more smoothly. The benefits will occur with honor and dedication with this aspect of organization. The film *The Croods* represents that routines and having assigned roles creates an organized environment, limits stress, and forms an understanding among others in the same household.

It is important for family members of a multigenerational dynamic to rely on one another during times of need. A pattern of frequency of the movie clip describes this concept quite clearly. The identified pattern of frequency would be how each family member has their own

way in retrieving an egg throughout the film scene. A way Lawrence states such a situation is that “dividing up and assigning chores is a necessary part of keeping the wheels greased” (*Full House: A Guide*). This constant action of willingness develops a perception of working together smoothly as a team. When every family fails in retrieving the egg though, they are saved by another in accomplishing the task at hand. This set sense of reliance establishes the feeling of reassurance, which creates a positive view of the strength among a multigenerational family.

Also, Lawrence suggests trusting in one another will “enhances family bonds” (*Full House: A Guide*), providing a more delightful way of living as a family. Being able to rely on one’s own immediate relatives, creates a trust that is essential when being surrounded by loved ones because otherwise, one will suffer from the lack of a support system in their own family. Such as in the film clip, how each family member constantly relies on someone else to defend them illustrates a great sense of trust. It is beneficially to such a large family dynamic to be able to know one’s family is there to provide comfort during personal and difficult times. This developed pattern of frequency along with the idea of reliance showcases a trusting family that relies on one another in order to achieve the toughest of daily challenges.

Trusting in one’s own family members is important in improving relationships and being able to know that there are people one can rely on. A constant pattern from the movie scene establish such a concept evidently. The competition between the animals and the Croods illustrates that when it comes to a difficult situation among three generations of family, one cannot accomplish such a task alone. When working with others, having trust in what they do is highly important. Serious situations cannot be taken lightly, and requires hope in one another to make progress. To achieve victory, working together allows every person to have faith in the others they are with; especially in this case, in one’s own family members.

As the entire family escapes in order to save their own lives, writers of the film create a fascinated hope for success. There is also a valued trust in one another among the family in order to get back home safely. This pattern of contrast between the animals and the Croods not only illustrates the importance of trust in a multigenerational family, it also advances the pathos and understanding of the movie itself- providing another tactic on how media perceives multigenerational families in general. Presenting families down to a deep emotional level such as trust, advances ideas that are beneficially in families of multiple generations.

While working together as a family, respect is needed, which is represented with the occurrences of the movie clip's moments of intensity. The Croods family has a settlement of respect for the son of the family when the catastrophes of change occurs, because no one seems to be angry or upset. Learning to respect others especially during tough situations, such as the moments of intensity in the movie scene of *The Croods*, is highly important. The advantages of forgiving and accepting others mistakes will be beneficial overall. There will be minimal arguments and stress created during unsolicited moments of reality. When the times become difficult, communication is key in such situations. Klein suggests to "have regular family conferences to discuss issues before they become problems" (*How Generations Can Thrive*), because respect and understanding in multigenerational families are key points in achieving success.

Respect can be developed by communication, trust, and being able to understand from others points of views. As a family, relationships with one another depends on one's physical standing of the family dynamic. For example, children will act differently to their grandparents than to their own siblings. Understanding one's own family members is easier when there is an established connection. One's level of respect for another will increase, which will enhance the

dynamic of a family as a whole. With multigenerational families, there are many connections to be created, but the benefit that is achieved will be worth the dedication. Established respect which can be analyzed in the movie clip, leads to the accomplishment of the ownership of the egg at the end. They were able to make it through the life and death situations of the task, in order to achieve the goal in mind. The moments of intensity portrayed create instant changes in the meaning of the situations that develop a further understanding on how this particular family lives their weekly lives by working together and taking into account on what is truly important as a family.

By keeping the eye on the prize and by working together as a family, no matter how many people are involved, the impossible can be defeated. With so much diversity in the American society today, it is difficult to realize what is consider a perfect family. It is not important if one's family seems perfect to others though. As long as one's family is a family consisting of loved ones and people one cares about, that is all that matters. Multigenerational family households can be a lot to handle at times, but can be perfect in their own way with the collaboration of every family member. Love is powerful and understanding such a concept and applying that idea to one's own family, will create the support and essential need in life at the end. A system of a family made of love, will be treasure by one for a lifetime; no matter how big or complex such a family could be.

According to Klein, the most common multigenerational living arrangement is having three generations under one roof (*How Generations Can Thrive*). It is perceived that when every member of such a family has their assigned place, contains the ability to rely on one another, and has developed an overall family trust and respect, the impossible can be defeated together. Klein reminds others that it is remembered to "have fun and treasure the time" (*How Generations Can*

Thrive) one has with their family. Even though living with such a large family dynamic can be stressful, there is still the existence of unconditional love. Endorsed by Lawrence, there is “a better sense of what it mean[s] to be a family” (*Full House: A Guide*) when there is so much love to be offered.

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