

Story Corner

THE NORMAL FAMILY

At Williams Road Family Therapy Centre there is a good library of video tapes of different Families with different problems. One of my colleagues commented that it was unfortunate that the library did not have a video tape of a 'normal' family. We decided to remedy the situation. We told our friends, colleagues and students that we would like to interview a 'normal' family, assured them we would be discreet and not delve into any embarrassing areas. We offered to pay the family and to arrange a time suitable to it.

Weeks passed and no family turned up. We kept reminding everyone with no result. We explained that we were happy to use any family which regarded itself as normal, or any family that our colleagues considered well functioning and able to cope with its problems. Still the lack of response was deafening.

We then decided to advertise in the local paper specifying the above conditions. Again nothing happened. We readvertised, but the silence persisted. We enquired once more from our colleagues and students. After prolonged questioning, one of our students said that he vaguely remembered, when standing at a street corner

in Bendigo, seeing a car pass in which he thought he saw a family that appeared normal, but the car was travelling at such a high speed he couldn't be sure.

After another week of advertising and searching we decided to give it up, plainly there was no such thing.

When Tesse, whose feet are closer to the ground, heard, she said, 'Come off it; there are plenty of normal families out there. The evidence for this is compelling in that they did not respond to your repeated advertisements'.

MOSHE AND TESSE LANG
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