

**Family Trees teach us a lot of interesting things about our families and their history.** This activity will help create links between the present and the past of your own family.

Here are a few curriculum connections that this activity will help you with!

- Gathering and organizing information
- Changing family roles and responsibilities throughout history
- Changing family and community traditions

Discussion questions to have with your child(ren) before creating your Family Tree:

1. Before we make our family tree, starting with yourself, who would be on it?
2. Do you know your grandparent's names?
3. What do you like about your grandparents?
4. What is unique about our family?
5. What do you like best about our family?
6. What are some different kinds of families? (nuclear, foster, diverse, etc.)
7. What sort of things does your family celebrate? Do all families celebrate those things?

After discussing the above listed questions, go ahead and begin to do the craft. You will need the following materials:

- A mason jar, vase or similar;
  - A piece of newspaper, music paper, craft paper or any other creative paper;
  - String or clothes pins;
  - Blank paper;
  - Scissors;
  - Crayons, pencil crayons or markers;
  - Scotch tape
1. Begin by taking your mason jar or vase, and covering it with a unique piece of paper such as sheet music, craft paper or a piece of newspaper. Use scotch tape to fasten it.
  2. Go outside and collect some branches from around your yard – be careful not to injure any trees in the process! Once you have collected your sticks, arrange them within the jar/vase.
  3. Take the blank piece of paper and cut out circles to draw out who you have selected to be on your family tree; include names, a sketch and an interesting fact! Be sure to colour your artwork for an extra boost of detail! You can also use real photos if your supplies allow. Remember that this tree can be as large or as little as you want to make it – going back as far as direct grandparents aids to a nice size, but if you can go as far back as great-grandparents, do so! Include years if you desire.
  4. Using the string or clothespins, fasten the emblems of your family members onto the tree. Remember to put yourself (the child) at the bottom and work up from there – the further back the generation, the higher they are placed on the tree.
  5. Display your family tree and discuss your family's story every so often, starting from the top and working your way down! Remember that you can add to this tree at any time.