



Family History for Kids

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Kids are great at doing family history! In fact, research supports that those who know the most about their family history are best able to handle stress. Bruce Feiler wrote an article for the New York Times called "The Stories That Bind Us" and said, "The single most important thing you can do for your family may be the simplest of all: develop a strong family narrative." Here are a few ideas to help kids understand their family story.

Ideas to Engage

1. Share a story – this is perhaps one of the easiest things to do. Find a story from your family and share it.
2. Act out a story – once you find a story, act it out. You might need to find some period clothing.
3. Make a family video – there are many free video creation tools and you can make a movie together. Here is one our family did: www.youtube.com/watch?v=gmk4VCGaCD0
4. Print a fanchart – you can easily create fancharts from familysearch.org and put your kids right in the middle.
5. Collages in Picasa – Picasa is a free photo tool from Google that can easily manipulate photos, create collages, do videos, and more. picasa.google.com
6. Tagging photos and indexing documents – FamilySearch allows anyone to upload their family stories and photos for free. Kids can easily learn how to tag these items. They can also participate in FamilySearch Indexing which can help them learn how to type. familysearch.org
7. Cemetery games – Years ago we bought a blank puzzle and then we wrote a message on it and hid the pieces on the graves of our ancestors. Once the kids found the pieces we put the puzzle together and talked about our family.
8. Life map – Give kids 2-3 minutes to write down as many memories as they can think of and then have them draw a few of those memories on a map. Then you can make a simple video with pictures and voice.
9. Voice – most phones have apps to record audio. Ask a question, capture a funny moment and record it. Remember, pretty soon kids will talk like adults and you'll lose the opportunity. Kids can also interview other family members.

Websites and Apps

1. [Tour Builder](#) – a product from Google that lets you integrate your stories with Google Maps.
2. [Adobe Voice](#) – a free app for iPad that lets you build stories around voice.
3. [Vemory](#) – build simple videos using photos from places like Facebook.
4. [Facebook](#) – facebook.com/lookback let's you see a video of your experiences on Facebook.
5. [FamilySearch.org](#) – this page has lots of good ideas for kids.
6. [Zap the Grandma Gap](#) – a website with lots of kid friendly ideas and free downloads.
7. [FamilyTree Kids magazine](#) – an online magazine with lots of ideas.
8. [Pinterest](#) – lots of visual ideas here.
9. [FamilyTree the Game](#) – great board game for kids of all ages.