

The big Picture:

Ideas for collecting and preserving your family's legacy.

As your family starts to grow, it's important to think about how to capture your family's story in a compelling way that will live on for generations to come. What do you want your children and others close to your family to remember about you, and what stories do you hope will become a part of your family's legacy? What are the most important memories, stories and pieces of advice that you hope your children will hold onto long after you're gone? Determining the answers to these questions will require you to define or compile your family's legacy in a meaningful way.

Why should you begin now? As your children grow, you will share countless adventures, milestones and special moments as a family. If you develop a system of cataloging memories – trips, holidays, birthdays, graduations – you won't be left in a lurch later in life. These efforts also make a great starting point for a eulogy.



Create an annual slideshow of favorite family photos.

People put together slideshows for momentous occasions like weddings and funerals, but why not create a slideshow every year?

Step 1:

As a family, go through your favorite photos from the year.

Step 2:

Let each member of your family select 10 photos that bring back good memories from the year.

Step 3:

Compile the photos into a slideshow.

Step 4:

Repeat the process every year and combine slides into one comprehensive collection of your family's most meaningful memories.

Publish your own modern take on a photo album.

Printing photos and creating a physical photo album might seem like an old-school, time-consuming practice, but everyone loves flipping through the pages of a photo album and reminiscing on old family photos. Today, there are many services, such as Weeva, that allow you to easily create a hardcover book of your favorite photos accompanied by messages, favorite poems and short reflections. These books are printed and beautifully bound, making the perfect coffee table book, gift for family members, or memory book for your children to take when they head off to college.





Store important memories in a personalized memory box.

Have each of your children decorate a box with their name on it. Whenever your child brings home something that makes you laugh, smile or cry, place it in their box. When your kids move out of the house or graduate high school, gift them their memory box. Here are some ideas of what you can collect in your children's boxes:



School art projects



Notes of praise from teachers



Impressive report cards



Endearing essays

Beyond memories, gather important information.

In addition to cataloguing your family's memories and photos, consider compiling important information regarding each of your children sooner rather than later to ensure that your children will be prepared and taken care of in the future.

List of Details to Record:

-  Medical information for each child
-  Important passwords
-  Directions for family members to care for the individual needs of your children



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