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The Family Keepsake Planner

A practical guide to making sure each child feels special

> **Every child deserves their own record.**
>
> This planner gives you the tools to catch up, keep up, and give every child in your family a meaningful keepsake — regardless of where you're starting from.

Step 1: The Audit

Before you sort anything, take stock of what you actually have for each child.

Child's Name	Current Grade	What I Have	Gaps to Fill

Step 2: The Catch-Up Plan

If you're behind on one or more children, use this to close the gap — starting this week.

This week (takes 30 minutes):

- ☐ **Sit down with your child and create a memory snapshot** — See the fillable template at the end of this guide
- ☐ **Take or print one photo that captures who they are right now** — First day of school, a hobby they love, just their face
- ☐ **Ask them to write or dictate three things** — Favorite thing, best friend's name, what they want to be when they grow up
- ☐ **Have them draw a self-portrait and sign it** — Date the back in your handwriting
- ☐ **Put everything in a labeled folder** — "[Name] — Grade [X] — [Year]" — done

This month (when you have an hour):

- ☐ **Email their current teacher** — Ask if there are any portfolio pieces or artwork still at school
- ☐ **Look through your phone photos** — Screenshot or print 3–5 that tell the story of this year
- ☐ **Check old bags, folders, and backpacks** — You may have more than you think — do one sweep
- ☐ **Ask grandparents or other caregivers** — They sometimes save things you didn't know they had
- ☐ **Decide on a storage system** — One folder or box per child, clearly labeled — commit to it



Step 3: The Every Child, Every Year Checklist

Not identical — just intentional..

Every child, every year — non-negotiables:

- ☐ **Self-portrait** — School-made or home-made — just get one, every year
- ☐ **Handwriting sample** — Name, a sentence, the date — takes two minutes
- ☐ **Class photo** — One per child, labeled on the back
- ☐ **One piece they chose** — Their pick — ask them which one they're most proud of
- ☐ **Year in Review snapshot** — See fillable template below

Additionally, save 3–5 of these per child:

- ☐ **A piece of creative writing in their voice** — Stories, poems, jokes, diary entries
- ☐ **Evidence of a milestone or achievement** — Certificate, award, photo of the moment
- ☐ **Something that made you laugh** — Funny spelling, unexpected art, a note that surprised you
- ☐ **A note from their teacher** — Ask for one if it doesn't come — most teachers love to write them
- ☐ **A note from a close friend** — Passed notes and friendship cards are deeply personal
- ☐ **Something from a passion or interest** — The sport, the art form, the obsession of this particular year

Step 4: The Fairness Check

Do this after you've sorted every child's collection. Don't close the boxes until all answers are yes.

- ☐ Every child has **at least 5** meaningful pieces saved this year
- ☐ Every child has **a self-portrait** from this year
- ☐ Every child has something in their **own handwriting**
- ☐ Every child has **a photo** that captures who they are right now
- ☐ Every child's container **is labeled** with name, grade, and year
- ☐ I've done this check for **every** child — not just the first one I sorted

> *Equal doesn't mean identical. It means every child can hold something someday that says: you were seen. You were here. You mattered. That's the whole goal.*

Memory Snapshot — Fillable for Any Age

Use this for each child, any time — beginning of year, end of year, or right now as a catch-up piece.

_____'s Memory Snapshot

Age | Grade | Date:	**School & Teacher(s):**
My favorite thing(s) right now:	**My best friend's name(s):**
Something I'm really good at:	**Something I'm proud of:**
Something I'm looking forward to:	**What I want to be when I grow up:**
What I want to remember about this age/grade:	

Draw a self-portrait, or paste a photo, here:

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Ready to turn these memories into something beautiful?

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