

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. Fill this in honestly — no judgment.

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.

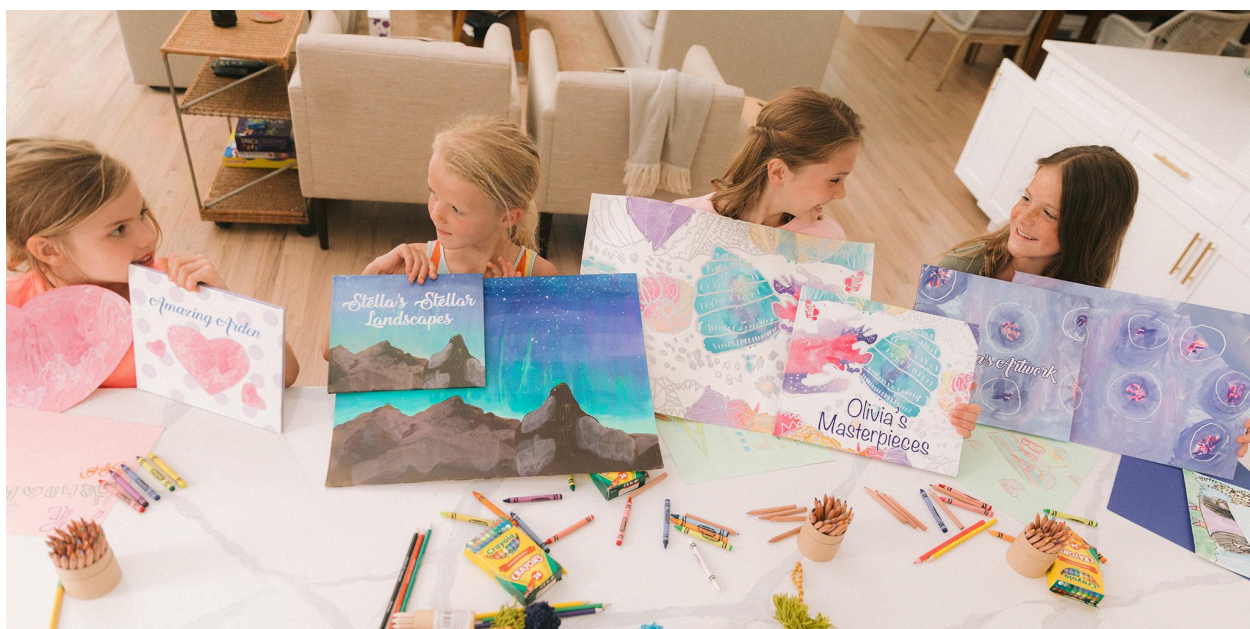
Memory Snapshot — Fillable for Any Age

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:	

plum print.



Ready to turn these memories into something beautiful?

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