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The Sibling Keepsake Guide

Fair, intentional memory-keeping for families with more than one child

Every child deserves their own story.

This guide gives you a simple, fair system for sorting, saving, and preserving each child's memories — without the guilt, the chaos, or the never-ending pile.



The Golden Rules for Sibling Memory Keeping

Before you touch a single piece of paper, agree with yourself on these:

- One container per child** — A dedicated folder, box, or accordion file — labeled and color-coded
- Same schedule for everyone** — Sort all kids on the same weekend, once a year — no child gets skipped
- Keep less, keep it better** — Aim for 8-10 meaningful pieces per child per year, not everything

- Each child gets their own book** — Not a family album — their own keepsake, celebrating them individually
- Equal means intentional, not identical** — The goal is that every child has a meaningful record, not a matching one

What to Save — Per Child, Per Year

Use this for each child independently. Check off as you sort.

Annual Non-Negotiables (every child, every year):

- Self-portrait** — If their school doesn't do one, have them draw one at home — takes 5 minutes
- Class photo** — One per child, every single year
- Handwriting sample** — Have them write their name, a sentence, and the date
- Year in Review card** — See the fillable template at the end of this guide
- One piece they chose themselves** — Let them pick — their choice reveals who they are right now

Additionally save (pick 3–5 per child):

- Their best art piece of the year** — The one that made you both proud
- A piece of writing in their own voice** — Stories, jokes, poems, diary entries
- Evidence of a milestone** — Lost first tooth, first chapter book, first award
- Something that made you laugh** — Funny spelling, unexpected drawing, a note to Santa in July
- A note from their teacher** — Ask for one if it doesn't come naturally — most teachers love to write them
- A note from a friend** — Passed notes and friendship letters are deeply personal keepsakes

The Fairness Check

Run this after sorting each child's pile.

- Does this child have at least 5 pieces saved this year?** — If not, look again — something was missed
- Does this child have a self-portrait?** — Non-negotiable — add one now if missing
- Does this child have at least one piece they chose?** — Their voice should be in the collection

- Is this child's container labeled for this year?** — Future you will be grateful
- Have I done this same check for every child?** — Don't close the box until all kids are done

What to Let Go — For Everyone

- Duplicate worksheets** — One is plenty. Zero is fine.
- Generic coloring pages** — Unless they added something personal
- Practice drills and handwriting sheets** — The skill matters, not the paper
- Torn, faded, or damaged work** — It will look worse in ten years
- Anything you feel obligated to keep** — Obligation is not a reason
- Multiples of the same craft** — One handprint turkey per child. That's the rule.

♥ The permission slip: Curate with love

You do not have to keep everything to honor everything. The pieces you choose to save become more meaningful when they're not buried under obligatory keeps. Curate with love. Release the rest.



_____ 's Year in Review

Grade & Year: _____

School: _____

Teacher(s): _____

My favorite subject this year:

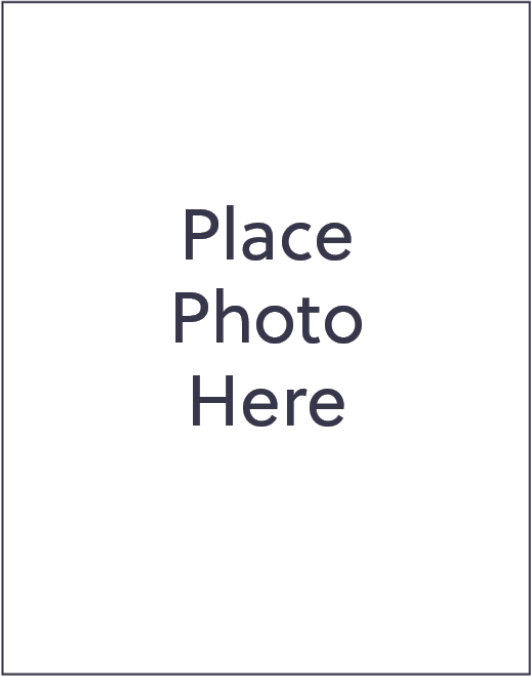
My best friend(s) this year:

Something I got really good at:

The funniest thing that happened:

What I want to be when I grow up:

One thing I want to remember:





Give every child their own keepsake book.

Plum Print creates one beautiful book per child — from their artwork, their handwriting, their memories.

You send the pile. We handle the rest.

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