

IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY DRIED BRANCHES, DRAW THE OUTLINE OF A TREE ONTO CARD. WRITE THE NAMES OF FAMILY MEMBERS ON GUM LEAVES, THEN GLUE TO THE TREE IN THE RIGHT ORDER.



BRANCHING OUT With your child, collect large leafless branches that look like mini trees. Find a photograph of each family member (photocopy them if you don't want to use the originals) and cut around the image to create different shapes. Using some string or ribbon, help your child tie the photographs to the branches. Label each with the name of the person. Start with Grandpa and Grandma, and work your way down the tree.

family TREE

SHARE BELOVED MEMORIES WITH YOUR CHILDREN AS YOU CREATE CAROLINE WEBSTER'S DECORATIVE, THREE-DIMENSIONAL FAMILY TREE.

ALL FAMILIES DIFFER. Some are small, some extended, some blended. For young children it can be very difficult to conceptualise where they fit in and how we are all connected. As an adult, it's probably not often you think about your family history, let alone chat to your children about it. If you are lucky, a relative with an interest in genealogy may have lovingly compiled a family history — and even had it published (although I'd wager it spends most of its time gathering dust on a shelf).

Recently I had to explain the concept of 'great-great aunt' to my young daughter. She was bewildered to think her family could possibly extend beyond her grandparents. We duly pulled out *our* book, shook off the dust and explored her heritage. She was interested, but I knew she didn't really get it. It was just incomprehensible lines and drawings on a page, interspersed with photos of men and women in uncomfortable-looking clothing.

Children use each of their senses to understand complex concepts, with sight at the top of the list. So together my daughter and I devised a craft activity using found objects from nature to create a visual, three-dimensional family tree. It was great fun to make and is more easily understood than its written counterpart. *

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PHOTOGRAPHY: CRAIG WALL; STYLING: GEWALDINE MAUROZ; PHOTOGRAPHY: JIMMY AND BILSON