**My Family Tree**

**Description:** Create your personal family tree! Go back in time to remember those before you. Along the way, share new and exciting stories so all of you grow closer to each other.

**Time:** 30 minutes-2 hours, depending on your family size

**Materials:**

* Poster board
* Markers and pencils
* Digital or phone camera

**Directions:**

1. Gather around where there is enough space for everyone to see the poster board and lay out the markers and pencils. Place the poster board in the center.
2. Ask everyone, “How do you define family?”
   1. No two families look the same. Family is what you make it.
3. Use the pencils to start your tree. Do not use the markers until you are done.
4. Write the youngest member of your family at the bottom of your poster and begin making lines (these are your tree branches), connecting family members to one another.
   1. From the youngest, draw a line and write another family member’s name. On top of the line, be sure to write the relationship (sister, brother, aunt, uncle, cousin) between those two people.
   2. Feel free to include friends too!
5. With each connection you make, share a story not everyone may know.
   1. Share a fun fact about yourself, a funny story between siblings, your favorite memory with your cousins, or anything else you want! The possibilities are endless!
   2. Examples: A family trip, siblings staying up all night sharing scary stories, climbing the tallest tree in the park with your cousins
6. Create as many connections as you can! Make sure everyone in the family is on the poster board and everyone has at least one line/connection.
7. Once you are finished, use the markers to draw a tree around your connections and decorate your masterpiece!
8. Take some time to reflect while you are decorating.
   1. How did this activity make you feel?
   2. What did you learn about each other?
   3. Think about anything else you want to share with your family or something else you want to know about someone in the family.
9. Take a picture of your final tree to remember this moment and find a place in your home to hang your family tree poster proudly. We hope you continue sharing more stories with each other from now on!