

Name _____

Date _____

Handy Family Tree

A family tree is a picture that shows members of your family. It can include information about each person. Do this activity to create your own family tree!

Note to Families

We have been learning about “traits” at school. Inherited traits are physical characteristics that can be passed down from parent to child. This family activity can help your child distinguish between inherited and learned traits.

Materials needed

- One large piece of paper or poster board
- Colored paper (one for each member of your family)
- Scissors
- Pens or markers
- Tape or glue



Instructions

1



Trace the right and left hand of each family member onto a piece of colored paper

2

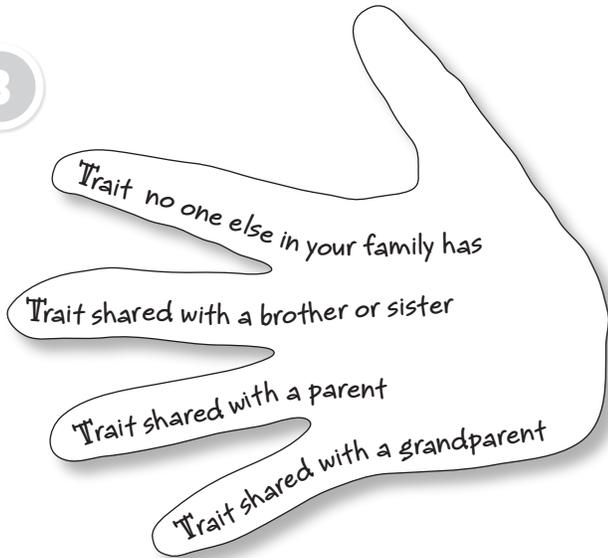


Cut out the handprints

Name _____

Date _____

3



On each finger of your left handprint list a trait (physical characteristic) that you have inherited such as:

- eye color
- hair color
- dimples
- freckles
- chin shape (smooth or cleft)
- ability to roll the tongue
- earlobe attachment (attached or free)
- hairline shape on the forehead (smooth or pointed)
- height

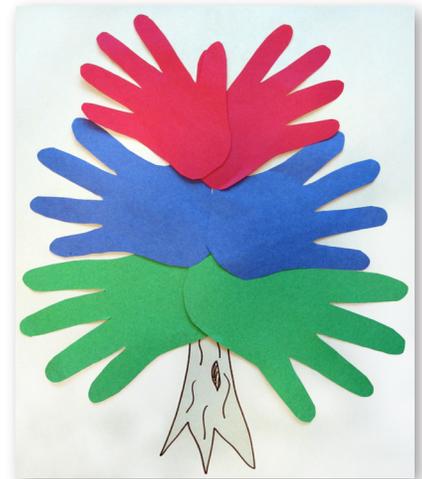
On each finger of your right handprint, list a trait that you have acquired or learned.

4

Draw a tree trunk onto a large piece of paper or poster board.

5

Glue or tape your family's handprints above the trunk to form a tree. Place the oldest person's pair of hands at the bottom. Work upward until you place the youngest person's pair of hands at the top.



Optional

- Add a small picture of each family member to the palm of one handprint. Write their name, date of birth, and place of birth on the palm of the other handprint.
- Include handprint shapes for family members who were not available to draw their hands. See how your parents' or grandparents' favorites compare to yours!

This project is supported by grant U33MC00157 from the Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Genetic Services Branch and the March of Dimes.