

Family Calendar

Description:

A Family Calendar provides a means of communicating important events to your entire family, keeping track of busy schedules, and allowing family members to quickly locate other family members. When placed in a common space such as the kitchen, all family members are guaranteed to pass by the calendar and be reminded of upcoming dates. Your family can schedule family meetings, family outings, monitor family goals, and create monthly family agendas. The calendar can allow parents and children to schedule their own important events—like parent date night or friend play-dates—knowing that everyone in the family will be aware of those plans and will plan their own schedules accordingly. The calendar can help teach children about organization, cooperation, advance planning, and communication. Children also learn that their plans and wishes matter too, as they are given space to voice their opinions about family outings, schedules, and events.

Supplies:

A Family Calendar should be big enough to accommodate the whole family's schedule. The best option is a big desk calendar from an office store. Stickers and markers can be used to highlight special events like birthdays, holidays, homecomings, and other important family dates.

Directions:

The calendar can be mounted on the wall where everyone will see it.

Be sure to place it low enough that younger children will be able to see it as well! Together, your family should discuss how you will use the calendar, who will write on it, and how you will plan joint events. Families with older children and adolescents should discuss how they will negotiate competing plans and desires. It's best to use pencil when scheduling dates, as plans can change and pencil allows you to erase and reschedule as needed.

Note: *While deployments and homecomings are important dates for the Family Calendar, your family knows that those plans and dates can be especially prone to change, often last minute. Have a family discussion about these possible changes. Talk about the various schedules that might exist around deployments and homecomings and how your family will deal with those schedule changes.*

