



Writing a Family Mission

A family mission statement, written collaboratively with the whole family participating, can articulate a shared vision and provide a guidepost for behavior. Your mission statement may include ideas of a good life, goals, values, and characteristics that define your family's unique identity. This is a living document that may change as your children develop and your family discovers new interests and hobbies. Revisit your mission statement periodically. Refer to it to encourage positive attitudes, reinforce collaborative problem solving, and promote everyone's constructive participation in your family.

Have a Family Meeting

- Gather as a family in a comfortable space with pencils and paper
- Encourage everyone to contribute their ideas
- Listen empathetically
- Write things down

Writing the Mission Sentence: Brainstorm

- How do we treat each other?
- How do we resolve differences?
- What traditions do we take from our pasts, what are our new traditions?
- What faith traditions do we take from our pasts, what are our new faith traditions?
- What kinds of things do we like to do?
- What feeling do we want in our home?
- What makes us want to come home?
- What are our unique talents?
- What are our responsibilities?
- What principles do we follow?

Discuss Family Values: Collect lots of words and ideas, circle the most important. Here are some examples.

- Adventure
- Education
- Health
- Kindness
- Faith
- Creativity
- Environment
- Honesty
- Service
- Fun

Write the Statement: Focus on Four Points

- What does our family love doing together?
- What do we need to change (constructive, positive, future thinking)?
- What words best describe our family?
- How does our faith identity factor into our mission?

Now you are ready to collaboratively draft one or two sentences or a list or phrases or “ingredients.” Use metaphors that help your children understand and engage like...

- We are the recipe of a favorite dish comprised of many parts coming together to make a tasty whole
- We like being a team and working towards the same goal
- We are like music, blending different sounds and words

Samples:

“In our family we are very creative, everyone participates in solving problems and planning projects, we work together as a team, and we have fun making things together.”

“Our mission is to be curious and learn, respect each other and the earth, and spend as much time in nature as possible.”

“Our family likes to move our bodies in healthy ways, respect each other, and have friends over for Shabbat dinner.”

“We mix lots of different ingredients when we cook, just like each flavor is important to the recipe we are each important to the whole, and when we work together we create something yummy.”

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