

## How to Build the Perfect Cubby House

Author /Illustrator: Heath McKenzie

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### Synopsis:

Ollie is building THE PERFECT CUBBY HOUSE!

Everyone has some great ideas, and pretty soon, the whole family is involved!

A fun and funny story about the importance of family and togetherness and always having a plan!

### Author / Illustrator Bio:

Heath McKenzie lives and works in a very small suburb in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia and has worked with numerous clients and publishers worldwide\*.

His work is entirely freehand while also being entirely digital. He does his very best to keep it as 'real' as possible and tends to be successful at that more often than not.

Along with illustration (which he's been doing professionally since 2003) and writing (which he's been getting away with since 2013) he's managed to sneak in the odd bit of design work along the way.

When not drawing he's busily helping raise a little family with his lovely wife, collecting an unnecessary amount of toys, books and dvds, indulging in a spot of Doctor Who and attempting occasionally ambitious culinary feats in the kitchen.

He also enjoys possibly a bit too much tea.



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## Curriculum Links HASS Foundation Design and Technologies

[ACHASSK011](#)

[ACHASSK015](#)

[ACTDEP007](#)

### Themes:

Family  
Building  
Home

#### PRE-READING QUESTIONS

Look at the front cover of the book.

Read the title together.

Identify the author and the illustrator. There's only one name on this book.

What does that mean?

What do you think the story will be about?

Read the blurb at the back of the book. What do you feel about it? What kind of things are you now expecting to see inside the book? What questions do you have?

Just inside the cover, before the title pages and the start of the story, are some illustrated pages. These are called 'endpapers'. What do the endpapers in the front of the book show you? What do they add to what you've already guessed about the story?

(When you've finished reading the book, try looking at the front and back endpapers together. Are they the same?

If not, what is different about them. How does that tie in with the story?)

#### Home:

What is home?

What makes a place a home?

What rooms are in the cubby in this book.

What rooms are there in your home?

If you were to make a cubby, and it could have any rooms you wanted in it what would you include

In the story they have:

- Garage for their bikes
- Dancing Room
- Movie Room
- Kitchen
- Library with a swing

## Home Design and Technology

Go back to look at the final pages of the book, and take note of how all of the rooms balance precariously on top of each other.

What happens to the cubby house?

As a class talk about why this happened, and demonstrated with cardboard boxes in front of the class.

Look at how different configurations of boxes make the structure more or less stable .

In groups, use different sized cardboard boxes to create your own small version of an ideal cubby house.

Present the designs to the rest of the class

## HASS

Family Tree

Look at the end papers of this book.  
What do you think the pictures mean?  
What do the lines mean?

Have a look at the characters in this family tree and see how they're connected.

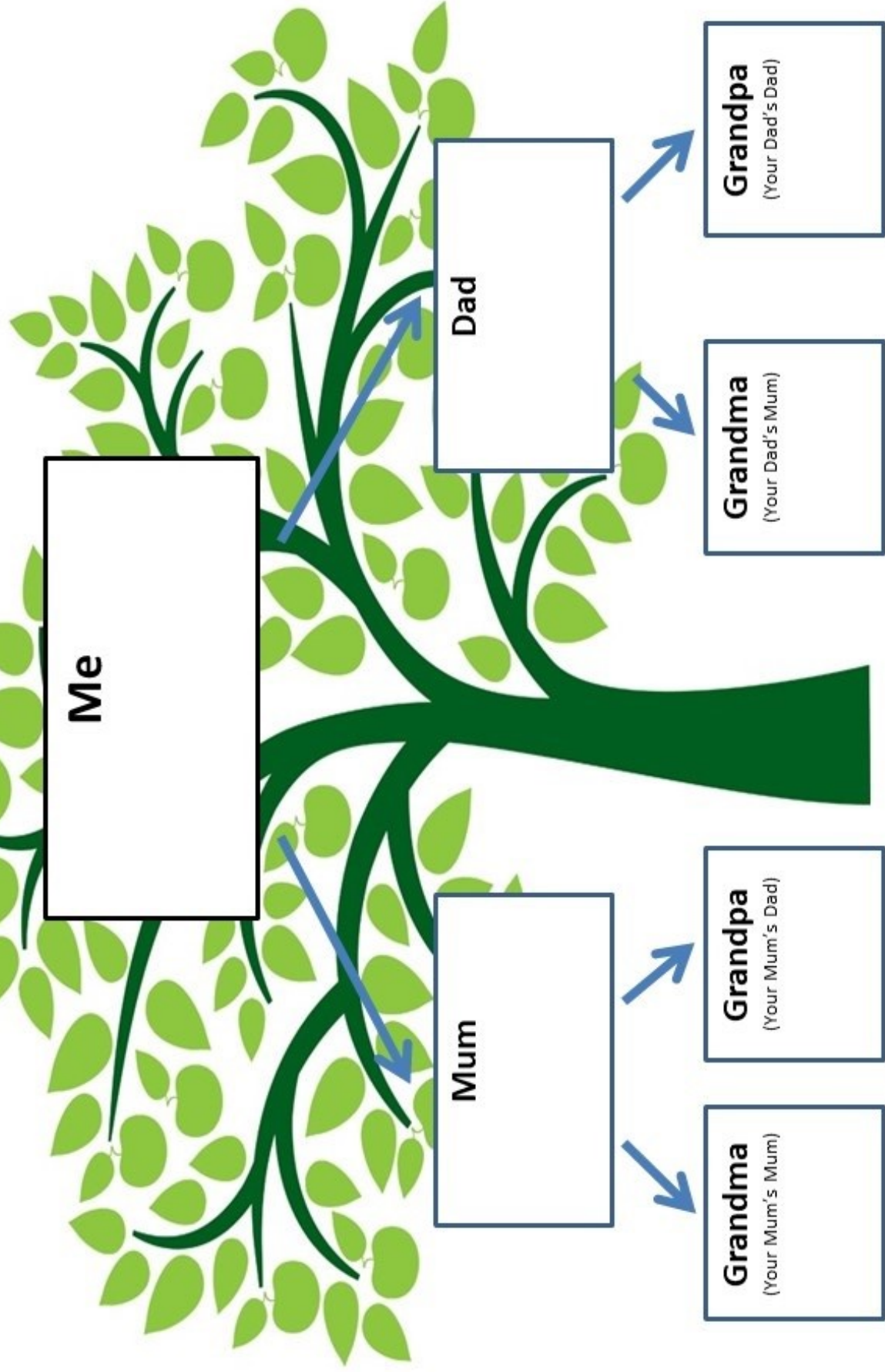
Talk about the relationships between everyone.

Grandparents, Mums, Dads, children, Aunties, Uncles, Cousins

See a template for a simple family tree at the end of these notes.

Once a basic family tree has been created, you may like to expand on it, (like the one in this book)

# My Family Tree



# All families are unique



If you need to add extra people to your family tree, cut these boxes out and stick them onto your tree, and tell us who they are.

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