

Timeline

Ahead of time find out how long the family was overseas and age of oldest child.

Prepare strips of timeline paper. E.g. wallpaper border. Allow 20 - 40cm per year.

1. **Thinking:** Choose which year to start from e.g. when your oldest child was born or when you moved overseas.

Involve older children in helping you plan how many years you will show. E.g. You were born in 2006. Now it is 2016. How many years?

Round up the years so the time line can be continued after they leave.

2. **Drawing :** Divide line into year segments and write in years below the line. [If the family want to do a straight line folding may help but no need to be too precise with measurements. They may choose to draw a winding road. Draw another line parallel to the first e.g. 2cm apart so you have a track/road.

3. **Colours:** Decide as a family which colours you will use for UK and country or countries you have lived in. Create a colour code on the timeline. Let younger children colour in the track. E.g. you can colour in this part red for when we lived in Bolivia. You can colour this part yellow for when we came back to visit UK or when we lived in UK. Mark in pencil so children know where to colour. Older children may be upset if the wrong colour is used! Pencil crayons or wax crayons work well.

4. **Birthdays:** Each child draws a picture of themselves as a baby.

Give them one plain sticker for each completed year of their life. Different colours for each child. Write numbers on them for their birthdays.

Help them stick their baby picture and stickers them on the family time line. E.g. This was your first birthday. Your second birthday goes here etc. Once all their stickers are on help them remember a few birthday celebrations especially from their more recent birthdays. Add notes or drawings if they are interested. Mark date of debrief..

5. **More possibilities:**

House moves. [Create address labels on house shapes]

Mark -important dates with captions, stickers or arrow - vacations, national holidays, weddings, accidents, major illnesses, surgery, pets joining the family or dying, prizes or achievements, visitors from UK or....start of school or change of school, agency conferences.

This part may be the most difficult for young children. Have paper, play dough, books or other activities for them to engage in while rest of the family works on the timeline. They could decorate a label e.g. The Smith's timeline. With pens or stickers.

What do we see? What do we learn when we look at our family timeline?

Encourage the parents to draw out responses from their children. Have timeline out in other sessions so it can be added to as other events are remembered.