THE CONNECTEDNESS MAP

This is an activity that can be done with children. When children have completed their connectedness maps, they may want to hang them up in their rooms. This can be a consistent reminder of all the people in the world with whom they are connected.

1. Take a blank piece of paper and place the child in the CENTER (you could use of photo, write the child’s name, or have the child draw a self portrait).

2. Ask them to think of all the people (living or deceased) they are connected to. Include family members, friends, teachers, coaches, pastors, rabbis, etc. - anyone with whom they have/had a connection. Add each of these names to the paper, using one shape to represent males and a different shape to represent females. Example: □ = Male ○ = Female.

3. Next to each shape, write the person’s name and age (if known).

4. Place individuals who are of similar age as the child on the same level as the child, older people above the child, and younger people below to show different generations.

5. Ask the child how he/she feels connected to each person.
   - Is this person a blood relative?
   - Does the child love this person?
   - Does this person teach the child, or do they have good, meaningful talks together?
   - Does the child feel a spiritual connection with this person?
   - How has this person enriched this child culturally?

6. The child should then draw the appropriately-colored line between him/herself and the other person. If there are multiple connections, there will be multiple lines.

**KEY:**
- **Blue** = Blood (biological) connection
- **Red** = Heart (love) connection
- **Yellow** = Spiritual connection
- **Green** = Mind (mental) connection
- **Purple** = The Richness of Culture Connection

Contributed by CASA of Santa Cruz County and EMQ.

Family Search and Engagement Distance Learning
Developed by the Institute for Human Services for the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program
April, 2011