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Family Folklore- Collecting Family Folklore on Short-Item Cards  
Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service  
4-H Club Bulletin  
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# Collecting Family Folklore on Short-Item Cards

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**PURPOSE:** To become aware of how short-item cards can be used to collect folklore, to introduce new members to a group, and to find out a little about other people's folklore

**YOU'LL NEED:** Short-item cards (see example on next page)  
OR use index cards (5- by 8-inch) to make your own short-item cards

Pen or pencil

**TIME:** 20-30 minutes

**HOW TO DO IT:** Invite new friends to a club meeting. Fill out short-item cards as a way of introducing each other and learning about family folklore. Each person should choose a partner to ask one of the following family folklore questions, or you can make up your own. Fill in as much information about your partner as possible on the short-item card. Share this information with the rest of the group.

- What school cheer do you know?
- Tell me a nickname you or a family member has.
- Sing me a lullaby you know.
- What home remedy do you use for a cold?
- Tell me a jump rope rhyme.
- What do you do for good luck?

- WHAT ELSE?**
1. Make a booklet of your collected items. Write a story about them for a local or school newspaper.
  2. Make a poster display of your group's collected folklore.
  3. Organize and file your cards. Give each card a number. Cross-index them by informant, folklore item, subject, etc. Refer to 4-H 1222, *4-H FOLK PATTERNS Leader's Guide*, for hints about storing collected material.
  4. Consider sharing your family collection with the MSU Museum. Contact your county Cooperative Extension Service office for information on how to do this.
  5. Write a comedy skit based on family expressions and the problems others have in understanding them!
  6. Draw a cartoon strip of a situation when a family expression is used.
  7. Tape record your family expressions and the stories that go with them.



FOLKLORE ITEM:



- Where Collected \_\_\_\_\_ • Date \_\_\_\_\_
- Informant's Name (Person Interviewed) \_\_\_\_\_ • Age \_\_\_\_\_
  - Address \_\_\_\_\_
  - County \_\_\_\_\_
- Collector's Name (You) \_\_\_\_\_ • Age \_\_\_\_\_
  - Address \_\_\_\_\_
  - County \_\_\_\_\_



• Tell Us More . . . .

Your space for more information on the informant's background (culture, religion, occupation, etc.) and the situation where you collected the information.



Permission granted to deposit this card in the MSU Folklore Archives for educational use:

Collector's Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Informant's Initials \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed cards to:

4-H FOLKPATTERNS

The Museum  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, Michigan 48824