Blossom

Blossom invites you and your partner to embark on a joint conversational journey about your shared everyday life, financial wellbeing, and parenting.

In this game, you respond to questions about various aspects of your lives as a couple and as parents (or parents you wish to become).

Each card you play becomes part of a tree you build together. A branch with blossoms forms when you agree on a question; if you disagree, that part of the tree will remain bare.

open future lab

If you have any feedback for us, please contact:
hello@openfuturelab.org

Printing Instructions

This document contains the *Playing Cards* (Section A) and the *Manual* (Section B).

Print the document **double-sided** on **A4 paper**.

Cut out the Playing Cards using scissors.

You can print the game yourself or ask a local printing shop to do it for you.

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Who is more likely to explain to the kid why we can't buy or afford something right now?

Who is more likely to give the child an allowance that is earned through chores or reaching goals?

Who is more likely to teach the child how to spend money safely online, covering topics like scams, ads, and digital money?

Who is more likely to give the kid a piggy bank and explain how saving works as part of growing up?

Who is more likely to say that "money doesn't grow on trees", when the kid asks for something?

Who is more likely to encourage the kid to compare prices and make their own smart choices?

Who is more likely to share their own childhood money memories with the kid to spark a conversation?

Who is more likely to turn a toy-shopping trip into a talk about "Do we really need this?"

Who is more likely to give a talk on saving right before buying a fancy toy?

Section A: Playing Cards

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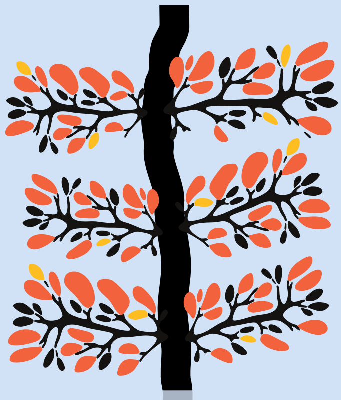
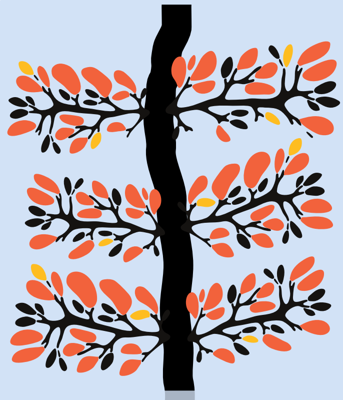
Who is more likely to turn a grocery trip with the kid into a treasure hunt about smart spending?

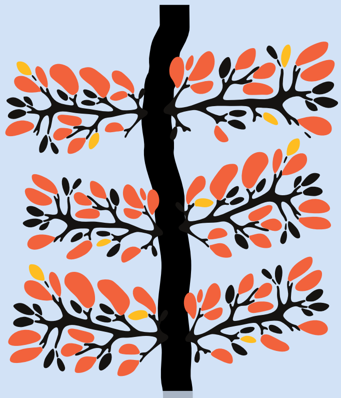


Who is more likely to experience strain from managing work, parenting and household responsibilities?



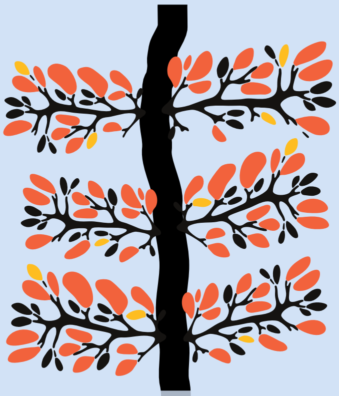
Who is more likely to take care of essential behind-the-scenes work that keeps the household running smoothly?

Who is more likely to keep tidying up even when others think the day is done?



Who is more likely to quietly keep track of what the household needs — before anyone else notices?

Who is more likely to take care of household needs before looking after themselves?



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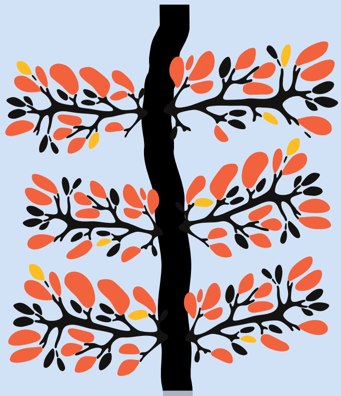
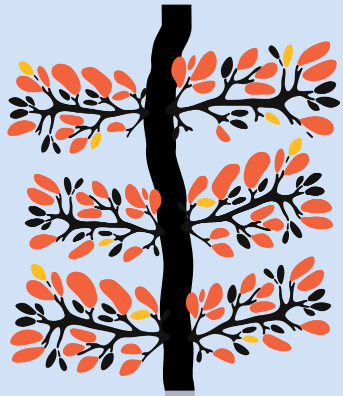
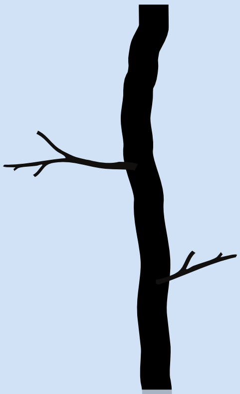


Who is more likely to reflect on whether household work feels balanced between us?



Who is more likely to say “what matters most is how we show up for each other”?



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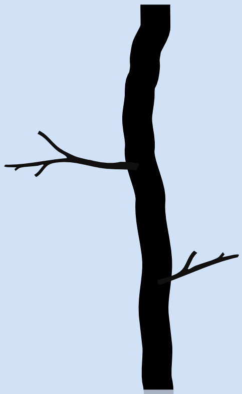

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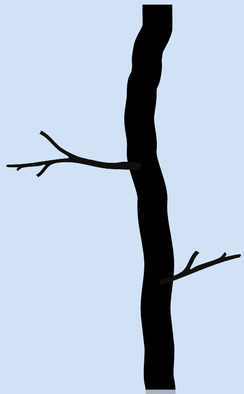

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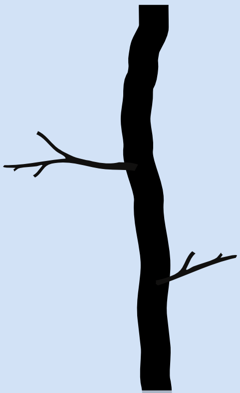

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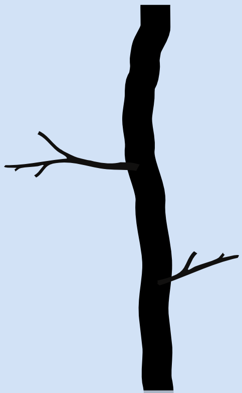

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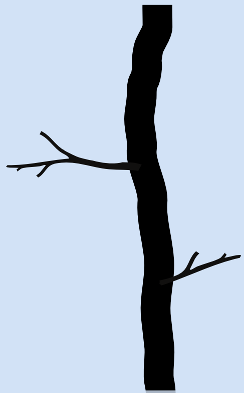

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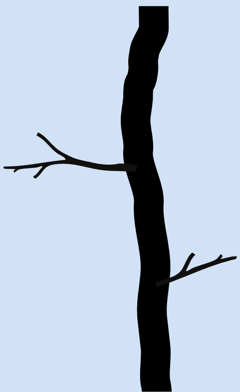

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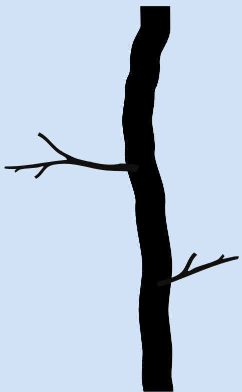

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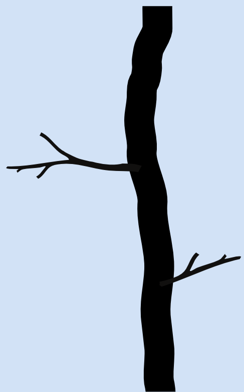

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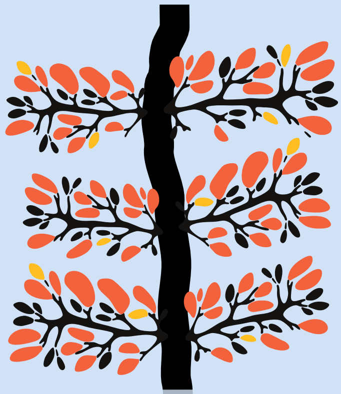

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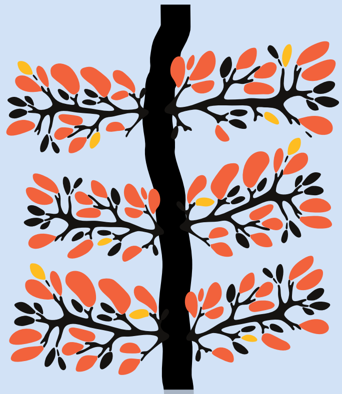
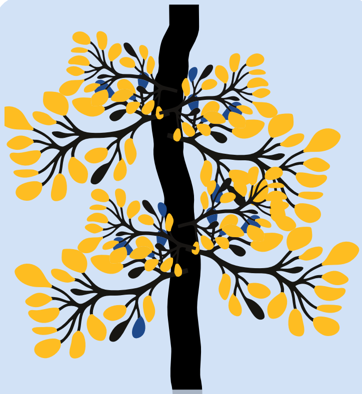
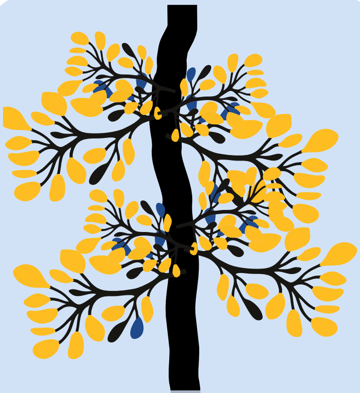


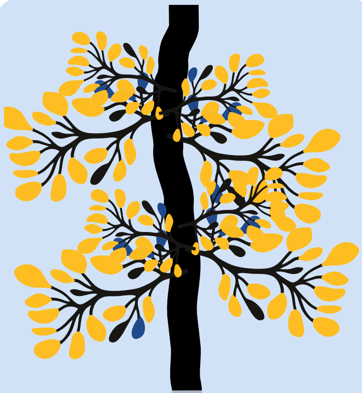
Who is more likely to worry whether childcare responsibilities will be manageable?



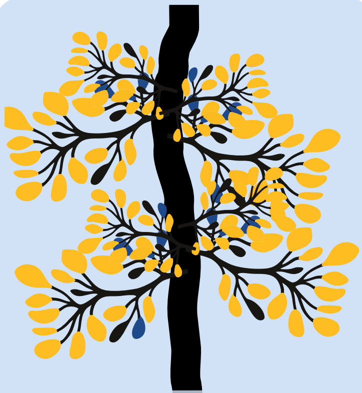
Who is more likely to be responsible for splitting income and expenses for the household?



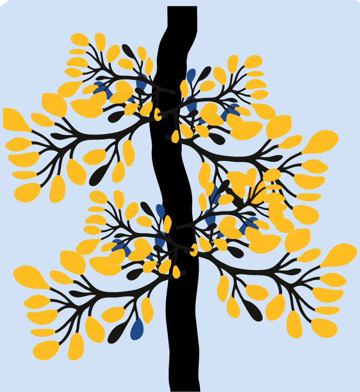
Who is more likely to keep track of every purchase and make sure family expenses stay on track?



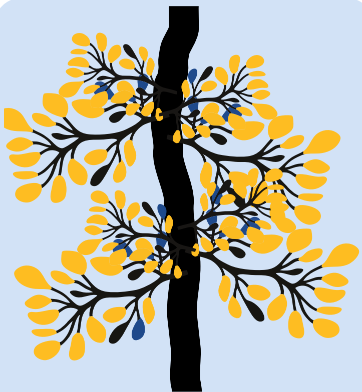
Who is more likely to check in before making a big family purchase?



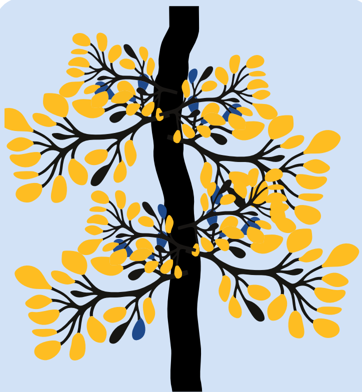
Who is more likely to say “Let’s sleep on it” before making a family financial decision?



Who is more likely to have the final say when we disagree on spending?



Who is more likely to take the first step to discuss joint financial choice?



Who is more likely to decide on a family expense independently?

Section A: Playing Cards

Who is more likely to be responsible for splitting income and expenses for the household?

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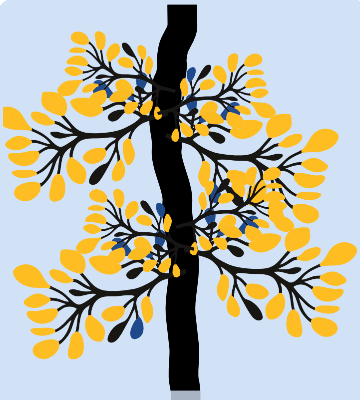
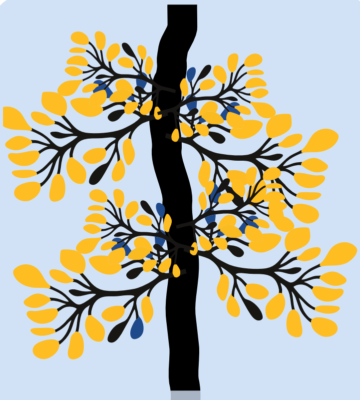
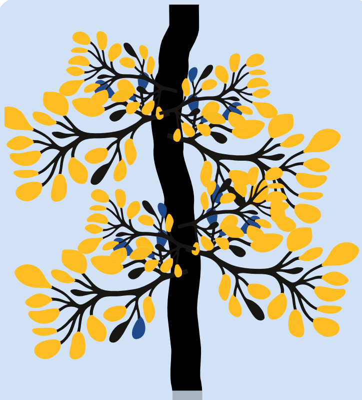


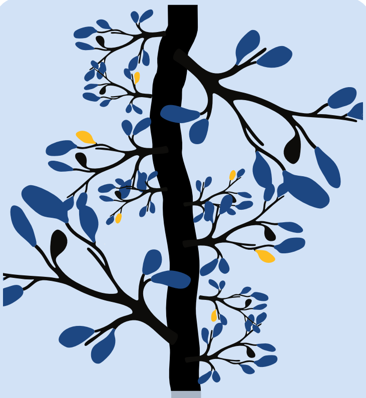
Who is more likely to take care of everyday money tasks like paying bills or handling payments?



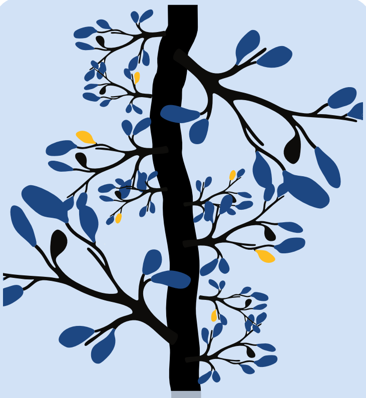
Who is more likely to rely on the other person for everyday money tasks?



Who is more likely to trust that expenses will work out without tracking?

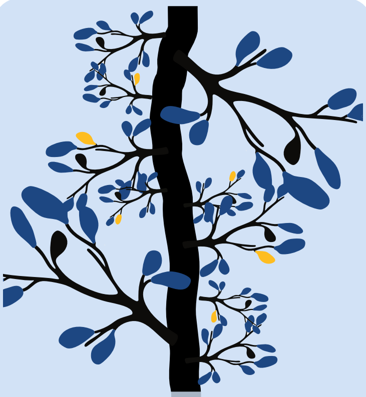


Who is more likely to start saving for the kid's education before they say their first word?

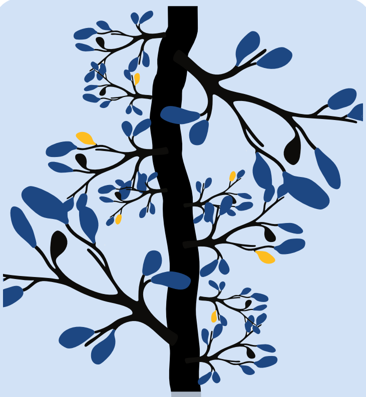


Who is more likely to do research on potential saving and investing opportunities for the kid's future?

Who is more likely to believe that living in the moment is more important than planning for the retirement?



Who is more likely to say, "Let's cut back — for the kiddo's future" ?



Who is more likely to think ahead about the family's financial future after becoming a parent?

Who is more likely to think about the values and financial legacy we pass on to our children?

Section A: Playing Cards

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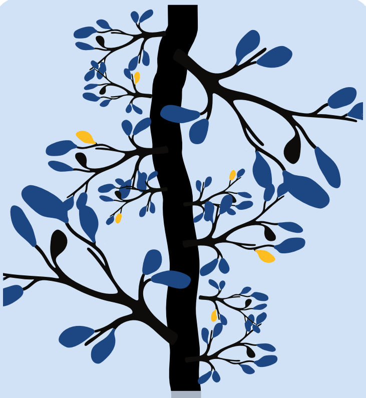
Who is more likely to show up with a 3-, 5-, and 10-year savings plan, with tabs and color codes?

Who is more likely to pick eco-friendly things for the kid even if they cost more?

Who’s more likely to point out that no-brand diapers work just as well?



Who is more likely to buy the kid a little treat, ‘just because’?

Who is more likely to always have an emergency fund ready?

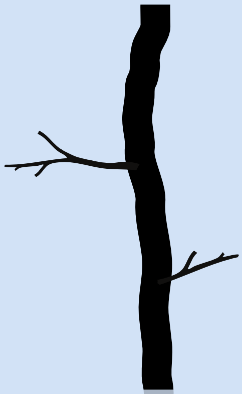
Who is more likely to dream of quitting their job and doing something completely different?

Who is more likely to value time over money?

Who is more likely to invest in passive income streams as a way to become financially independent?

Who is more likely to take some risk to gain financial independence?

Section A: Playing Cards



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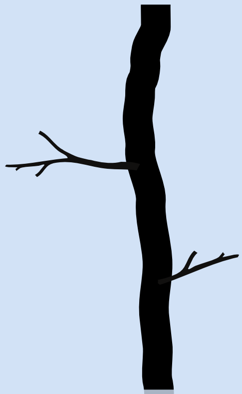

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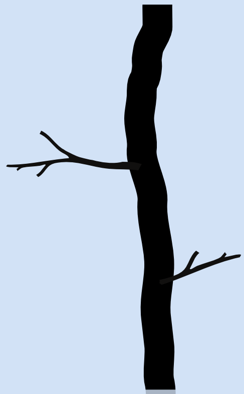

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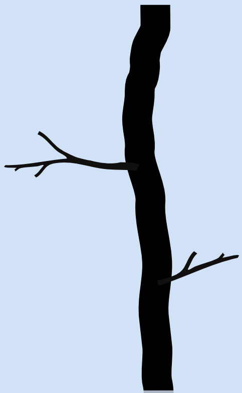

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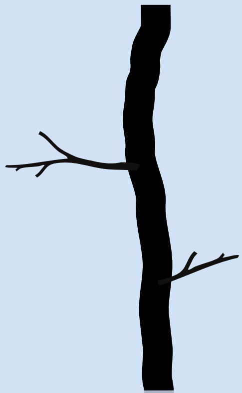

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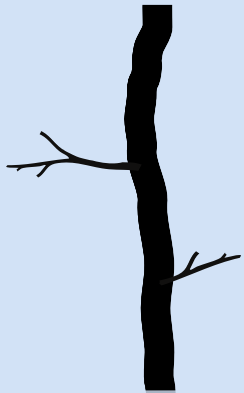

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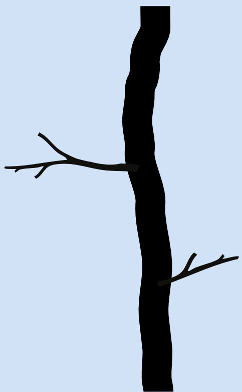
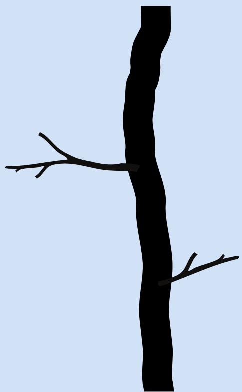


Who is more likely to take some risk to gain financial independence?



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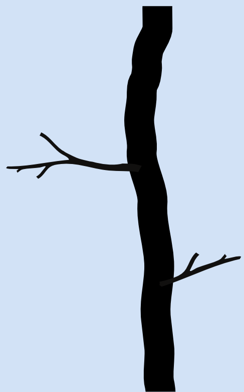


Who is more likely to value time over money?

Back

Who is more likely to save up for a big pleasure purchase?

Who is more likely to see spending on experiences as more rewarding than material possessions?

Who is more likely to seek out for more information and advice from others before making financial decisions?

Who is more likely to feel safer when every possible risk is covered by insurance?

Who is more likely to stay calm when facing unexpected financial changes?

Who is more likely to seek out for more information and advice from others before making financial decisions?

Who is more likely to see spending on experiences as more rewarding than material possessions?

Who is more likely to save up for a big pleasure purchase?

START

Who is more likely to stay calm when facing unexpected financial changes?

Who is more likely to feel safer when every possible risk is covered by insurance?

both

both

you

you

me

me


REFLECT

you
you

me
me

neither
neither

Reflection Card

1. How do you feel when you look at the tree? What does it reflect about us as a couple and as parents (parents we wish to become)?

2. Where do you notice branches that feel bare? What care and attention might they need to grow stronger?

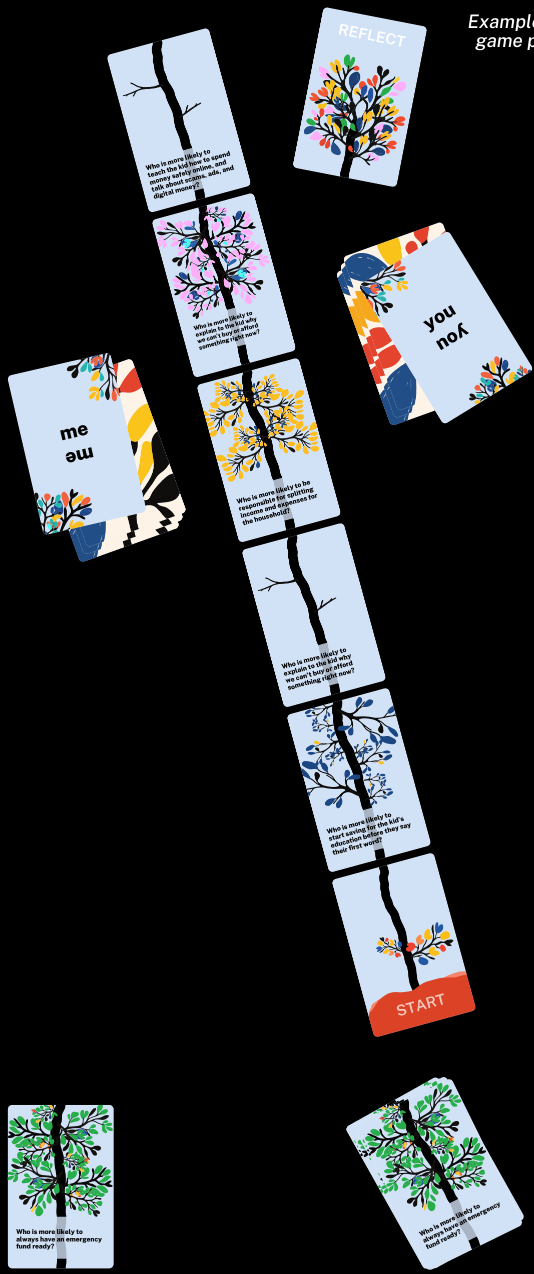
3. How do we hope our family tree will grow with us, year by year?

neither
neither

both
both

What's in the box?

Example of game play



Starting card

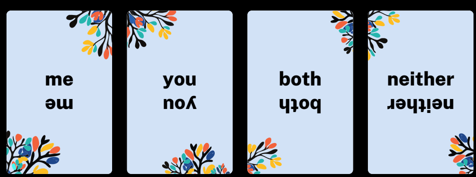
1x

Reflection card

1x

Voting cards

8x



Question cards

50x

0.

How to set up the game

Follow these steps to prepare the game:

1. **Create space!**

• Place the **starting card** on your table or the floor – wherever feels comfortable. Make sure there's space above it for your tree to grow.

• Set the **reflection card** aside. You'll use it after building your tree to deepen your conversation and reflection.

2. **Sort the question cards!**

• Group the **question cards into five stacks**, using the blossom on each card to guide you.

• Place the **five stacks** side by side – the order doesn't matter!

3. **Shuffle each stack seperately!**

4. **Distribute the voting cards!**

• Each player gets a set of four voting cards.

• Me, You, Both of Us, and Neither of Us.

Tips for playing

Talk freely – there are no right answers, just shared moments.

You don't need to resolve misalign-ments right away – just let your tree grow and see what emerges after a couple of rounds.

Skip any question that doesn't feel relevant.

1. How to play the game

Follow these steps to play the game:

1. Draw a question!

• Choose a starting player.

• That player draws the top card from the first stack (on the far left) and reads it aloud: *“Who is more likely to...?”*

2. Vote in secret. Put your selected card face down!

3. Reveal your votes!

• Flip your voting cards at the same time and compare your answers.

• *If your answers align, place the card blossom side up.*

• *If your answers differ, place the card trunk side up.*

4. Place this card on your tree!

Then it’s the other player’s turn to draw the next card – moving one stack to the right.

Alignment combinations:
- *me + you*
- *both + both*
- *neither + neither*
- *me + both*
- *you + both*

Misalignment combinations:
- *you + you*
- *me + me*
- *me + neither*
- *you + neither*
- *both + neither*

5. Reflect and revisit – Let your tree speak!

• After playing **at least two rounds,** take a moment to step back and reflect on your tree together by involving the **reflection card.**

• Answering one question from each of the five stacks is **a full round.**

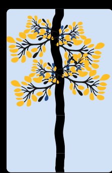
• See section **“2. An invitation to reflect together”**, for guidance on how to prepare and talk through the reflection.

Take your time for this step. You can do this reflection at the end or save it for another time that feels right.

2. An invitation to reflect together – let your tree speak

Sometimes clarity comes when pause and see what’s taken shape. The **reflection card** invites you to notice what has blossomed, where things feel harder, and how you want to grow together as a couple and (future) parents.

Thematic cards



Financial Roles

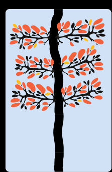
How do you divide financial responsibilities, from daily expenses to major decisions.

Parenting

How you talk with your child about money — saving, spending, making choices, and learning through everyday life.

Future Planning

How you plan for your children’s needs, your goals as a couple, and your own future security.



Invisible Work

How you share the invisible household and childcare tasks that keep family life running.

Financial Values

How your personal values shape the choices you make and actions you take.

Make space for reflection

• Choose a calm moment.

• Set aside **15–25 minutes** for this reflection.

• Look at your tree together and talk through the questions on the **reflection card.**

• You can also **take a photo** of your tree and come back to it later (e.g., next weekend).

If the conversation gets tender or tough

It’s okay. These moments are part of the journey. Use the simple steps below to stay connected, especially if emotions come up or you notice differences.

Pause and acknowledge
Notice what came up for each of you – emotionally, mentally, or physically. Take turns naming it. Share what felt good and what felt hard.

If you don’t fully align – that’s okay

Most couples carry different money histories, habits, and hopes. A mismatch isn’t a red flag. It’s a starting point. See it as a seed for discovery, not a dead end.

Choose one tiny action
Is there one small thing you’d like to try, shift, or talk more about after today? Make it realistic – something you could begin this week. These small steps are how trust grows.

Thank and affirm each other
Appreciate each other for showing up – with honesty, with openness, or even with hesitation. You might end by saying:

“I’m glad we talked about this together.”

“Thanks for being honest with me.”

“Even if we don’t match on everything, I know we’re on the same team.”

Talking about money isn’t always fun, but it doesn’t have to stay that way. Every branch on your tree holds a story. Every conversation about that story is a seed for discovery. With curiosity and patience, those seeds will blossom into trust, shared understanding and deeper love.