

# Free Family Dashboard — Setup Checklist

The 30-minute build that replaces Skylight, DAKboard, and Hearth Display — for \$0, using Claude AI, Google Sheets, Apps Script, and Netlify.

## Before you start

- A TV, monitor, or always-on display the family will glance at
- A way to drive it: smart TV browser, Chromecast, Apple TV, Fire Stick, or Raspberry Pi
- A Google account (free)
- A Claude account — free tier is plenty (claude.ai)
- A Netlify account (free, no credit card required)

*Sign up at [netlify.com](https://netlify.com)*

## Step 1 — Build the data sheet

- Create a new Google Sheet named 'Family Dashboard'
- Add one tab per widget: Schedule, Cheer, Meals, ToDo, Events

*Use whatever tabs fit your family*

- Put a clear header row at the top of each tab (Date, Time, Title, Notes...)
- Share the sheet with anyone in the family who will edit it

## Step 2 — Publish data with Google Apps Script

- Open Extensions → Apps Script in your Google Sheet
- Paste the doGet() script that returns each tab as JSON

*Script is shown on the video page*

- Click Deploy → New deployment → Web app
- Set 'Execute as: Me' and 'Who has access: Anyone'
- Copy the Web App URL — this is your live data feed

## Step 3 — Design the dashboard with Claude AI

- Take a phone photo of the room where the TV lives
- Open Claude and start a new chat
- Paste a prompt: 'Build a single-page family dashboard for a TV. Widgets: schedule, meals, to-dos, cheer, event countdowns. Match the aesthetic of this room. Poll this URL every 60 seconds: '
- Attach the room photo
- Save the HTML Claude returns as index.html

## Step 4 — Host on Netlify (free)

- Sign in at [netlify.com](https://netlify.com)

- [ ] Drag the folder containing index.html onto the Netlify dashboard
- [ ] Copy your new \*.netlify.app URL
- [ ] Open the URL on a regular browser and confirm data loads

## Step 5 — Get it on the TV

- [ ] Open the Netlify URL on the TV's browser / Chromecast / Fire Stick / Pi
  - [ ] Put the browser in full-screen mode
- Most browsers: F11, or Cast tab from your phone*
- [ ] Disable screen sleep on the device driving the TV
  - [ ] Edit one cell in the Google Sheet — confirm the TV updates within 60 seconds

## Step 6 — Maintain it

- [ ] Tell Claude what to add or change any time you want a tweak
- [ ] Re-drag the updated folder onto Netlify to redeploy
- [ ] Keep the Google Sheet as the single source of truth