



Exploring Our Community

It is important for children to explore and know about their neighborhood or community. By learning about the community, children gain a sense of belonging and an understanding of the global community. You can help your child learn about your community:

Infants & Toddlers

- Take your baby for a walk or with you on errands, such as the grocery store or a friend's house. Talk about what you see. She will learn to like to be in new places and around new people.
- Read to your child everyday! Read books about different places. It will help your child learn about the broader community.
- Collect and look at postcards from different places.
- Encourage your toddler to look at different types of maps – the map at the mall, a road map, or a map on the bus, subway, or light rail.
- Help your toddler hide a special toy and make a treasure map for a friend or family member to follow to find the toy.

Preschoolers

- Let your preschooler help you plan a trip – it can be a short walk, bike ride, or day trip.
- Go for walks around the neighborhood with your child. Talk about the natural features (lakes, ponds, rivers, hills, mountains and forests) and human-made features (parks, businesses, streets, stores, or schools) found in your community. Point out different symbols, such as stop signs, cross walks, or yield signs.
- Talk about local businesses in your community; find out what they sell and how they contribute to your community.
- Have your child make a map of your neighborhood. Suggest he include his house, the mailbox, playground, fire station, school, library, or a friend's house.
- Help your child locate different countries on a globe.
- Look at the weather report on the TV, newspaper, or internet (www.weather.com). Talk about the weather in different parts of the world – how it is the same or different from the weather in your community.

Book Suggestions

On the Town: A Community Adventure by Judith Caseley • Where Do I Live? by Neil Chesanow • Community Soup by Alma Fullerton • Whose Hat Is This? A Look at the Hats Workers Wear by Sharon Katz Cooper and Amy Bailey Muehlenhardt