



Discovering America

National symbols, such as the American flag, help children develop a sense of patriotism and belonging to their communities and country. As your child gets older, she will begin to understand that our national symbols are more than just physical objects; they represent thoughts and feelings.

Help your child learn the signs and symbols that are reflective of America:

Infants & Toddlers

- Visit the library and borrow CDs of songs about America, such as *Yankee Doodle*, *This Land Is Your Land*, *Home on the Range*, or *Oh Susannah*.
- Dress your child in red, white & blue on July 4th, Memorial Day, and Labor Day.
- Read books about America.
- Go on a Scavenger Hunt! Try to find as many red, white, and blue things as possible!
- Make a red, white & blue collage. Ask your child to glue red, white and blue items onto white construction paper in a random or ordered pattern to make a collage. You can use: paper, streamers, colored pasta, yarn, beads, stickers, etc.

Preschoolers

- Teach your child some of America's important symbols: the American Flag, the Statue of Liberty, the Liberty Bell, the White House, the National Anthem, or the Bald Eagle.
- On American holidays, such as Presidents' Day, July 4th or Thanksgiving, talk about why the holiday is observed and who/what it honors. Talk about why the holiday isn't celebrated in other parts of the world.
- Make "Handprint Flags." Help your child paint the palm of his hand blue and each finger red or white; then, place the painted hand on a piece of paper and add white dots with Q-Tips to the blue area to represent "stars."
- Encourage your child to trace letters or write the letters "USA." Ask her to decorate the letters using red, white, and blue crayons, markers, paint, or glitter.
- Put together a puzzle of the United States of America.

Book Suggestions

America the Beautiful by Katharine Lee Bates • *Red, White, and Blue* by Susan Canizares
Across America, I Love You by Christine Loomis • *The Statue of Liberty* by Lucille Penner
The Star Spangled Banner by Frances Scott Key • *I Am America* by Charles R. Smith, Jr.