



Newsletter

Draw a Map

Take a few minutes to observe and discuss your neighborhood with your child. If you live in town, count the houses, apartment buildings, or businesses on your block and read the names of cross streets. If you live in a rural area, notice the landmarks around your house. Help your child learn about where he lives by showing him how to make a map of his neighborhood. Or, if he prefers, have him create a map of an imaginary community.

 **What You Need:**

Ruler, paper, pencil, colored markers

 **Activity:**

1. With your child, draw a simple map of your home and neighborhood.
2. Write the name of the occupant or family on each house, if you know it. Label businesses and landmarks. Apartment dwellers can draw the floors of their building, noting interesting features, and then sketch out nearby streets and structures.
3. Discuss a series of questions such as the following:

- Who lives next to Nina?
- How many inches on the map is it from Anita's house to Mr. Scott's house? (Have your child measure the distance with a ruler.)
- What do you think lives in the pond?
- How many houses are between Phillip and Aunt Louise?
- What would you like to do in Strawberry Park?
- What kind of creatures might live in the tree?
- Which streets would you take to reach Ellie's house?
- Which streets would the Jackson's take to visit the snack shop?

