

MAPPING YOUR BLOCK

A Geography Book-Making Kit from the DePaul Center for Urban Education

This book-making kit is an outline of topics and captions for a five-page book.

Here is what you need to set up this project:

Paper -- Crayons -- Time -- Imagination

We have provided five topics for you to use to help a young child describe in pictures the places on the block. There are three important outcomes for this project: 1) the child will use words to describe a real place; 2) the child will get to know the neighborhood better; 3) the child will get ready to learn map skills.

Step 1: Write the name of your street on topic 1.

Step 2: Help the child write words that tell about your street on that page. The child can draw pictures, too.

Step 3: Start with the child's own home. Use topic 2 to show it.

(Remember that the answer to "who works here" is "everyone" – every person in your family does jobs. The child should draw a picture to show them doing those jobs.)

Step 4: Write words to label the people your the draws.

Step 5: Write the home address, too.

Step 6: Help the child work on topics 3 and 4.

Step 7: When you finish the four topics, make a map for topic 5.

Step 8: Start a display for this map.

Step 9: Keep going--you can add more places, you can go to the next block.
The rest is up to you.

Topic 1: Our Block

- This is the name of our street: _____
- These are some of the things I like about my block.
- These are some people who live here.

Topic 2: OUR HOME

- This is a picture of our home.
- These are the people who live here:
(Draw a picture of each person who lives here.)
- Who Works Here:
(Draw a picture of the people who live in this home doing a job.)

Topic 3: THE PLACE NEXT DOOR

- This is a picture of the place next door.
- This is its address number: _____
- This picture shows what happens in this place.

Topic 4: A PLACE ON OUR BLOCK

- This is a picture of a building on our block.
- This is its address number: _____
- This picture shows what happens in this place.

Topic 5: My Own Map

This map shows my block.