

# **MAPPING YOUR BLOCK**

## **A Geography Kit from the DePaul Center for Urban Education**

The lay-out on the next page is a starting point for a personal map of the block on which your family lives.

Here is what you need to set up this homework project:

Paper -- Crayons -- Time -- Imagination

We have provided four outlines 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) your child will use words to describe a real place; 2) your child will get to know the neighborhood better; 3) your child will get ready to learn map skills in school.

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

Step 2: Explain that a map is a way of showing where places are.

Step 3: Start with your own home. Use outline 2 to show it.

Have your child draw pictures in each section of that outline.

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

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

Step 5: Write your home address on the page, too.

Step 6: One at a time, help your child complete each of the other outlines.

Step 7: When you finish the five outlines, fill in the map on Outline 1.

Step 8: Start a display for this map.

If possible, put the outline sheets on a wall on which you use a strip of paper to show the street.

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

The rest is up to you.

## **OUTLINE 1: Our Block**

This is the name of our street: \_\_\_\_\_

Here are four places on our block. I will show what they look like and who lives or works there on the next pages.

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These are some of the things I like about my block.

## **OUTLINE 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.

### **OUTLINE 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.

#### **OUTLINE 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.