



Businesses All Around the Neighborhood

After watching the *JA Our Families* Lesson 3 volunteer video session, reinforce the learning in the lesson by creating a map of your neighborhood.

Materials

- Markers or crayons or sidewalk chalk
- Sticky notes or small tags of paper
- Large sheet of paper and a smaller piece of drawing paper (8½ x 11)

Activity

- Take a walk with your child around your neighborhood. As you go, note the shape of the road (or block), the houses or businesses there, and even the street numbers.
- Draw the route on a large piece of paper when you get home. (You could also use sidewalk chalk on a large outdoor surface, such as a tennis court or driveway.)
- Help your child label the places on your route. He can use a sticky note to represent each house or business along the route. If you are drawing your map outside with chalk, you may want to use blocks or rocks to represent the buildings. Your child can draw a picture of each building on the notes, write the house number, or add any other significant feature that represents the building, such as a large apple tree or a for sale sign.
- Have your child color in the rest of the map, adding trees, cars on the street, and anything else that seems important.
- Work with your child to recreate the map on drawing paper. Work together to make a map key by creating an icon for the buildings, trees, stop signs, and any other important features. Talk with your child about what the icons mean. Using your large map as a reference, draw those icons in place.
- If your neighborhood does not have any businesses, discuss the kinds of work that people in your neighborhood do. Perhaps someone delivers papers and someone else walks dogs regularly, or someone does day care at home. Create an icon for these businesses and note them on the map.
- Have your child share his map with close friends or family members, show your own home, and tell about other important places on the map.

Parents: Many young children have a hard time differentiating between what is real and what is a representation of reality. When you build your map and add the notes that represent the homes and businesses, talk about how these are not real houses; these papers or drawings represent, or stand for, real houses. When you draw the smaller map, talk about how the icons you thought of represent the houses and businesses in your neighborhood.