

My World in a Sandbox

Let your child create a miniature world in an outdoor sandbox or in a jelly roll pan (using clay instead of sand). Provide some simple materials such as old blocks, pieces of wood, small boxes or milk cartons, used aluminum foil, paper cups, twigs with a few leaves, etc. With time and imagination, your child can make up a world with rivers, buildings, trees, bridges, etc. If possible, take an "aerial view" photo of the miniature world.



Map and Go

Walk with your child around the neighborhood, circling a full block, if possible. Take along some strips of paper (about 2 by 8 inches) to represent streets. As you walk, look at the street signs and print a street name on each strip of paper. Also, discuss what you are seeing along each street (how many houses, apartment buildings, large trees, businesses, etc.). When you arrive back home, help your child begin a neighborhood map by arranging and taping the street-name strips on a blank sheet of paper. Then make simple drawings to represent what you saw along each street. On another day, repeat the walk, taking the map with you to see how well you both remembered and to check the map's accuracy.

