

How to Build a City

Summary: Your child will create a map of a city

Age Group: Grades 3rd through 5th

Materials: Paper or poster board, crayons, or markers, and LEGOs or blocks (optional)

Instructions:

Have a discussion with your child about cities. What is a city? What are some things you would find in a city? (government buildings, homes, stores, businesses, etc). If you are able, pull up a [map of Kansas City](#). What do you see on the map? Next, explain to your child that they will create their own map of their city (can be real or imaginary). Using a piece of paper or poster board, have your child draw a map of their city. They should include the following:

1. Streets (they can name streets if they'd like)
2. Green Area (parks, farmland, lakes, etc)
3. Compass Symbols (North, South, East & West)
4. Map Key
 - a. Draw some symbols to represent buildings/areas on a separate piece of paper. For example, they could draw an envelope to represent the post office.
 - b. Below are symbols they might consider
 - i. Hospital
 - ii. Airport
 - iii. Library
 - iv. School
 - v. Grocery Store
 - vi. City Hall
 - vii. Post Office
 - viii. Houses & Apartments
 - ix. Restaurants
 - x. Others?
 - c. Have them pick locations for the businesses and draw the symbol on the map where they would like it to be.
5. City name

Once your child finishes their map, discuss it with them. Why did they place their businesses and buildings where they did? How did they come up with the design for their city?

Extension: Have children create buildings for the businesses & organizations located in their city. They can do this using paper, or they can build with Legos or other building toys. They can lay out the buildings on the map or in a similar layout on the floor or table.

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